



Tami Party leader MK Aharon Abuhazzeira yesterday speaks to journalists at the Knesset after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. (Rahamim Israeli)

Growing pressure on Reagan

Jordan missile deal in doubt

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. — In the face of mounting pressure from Congress, President Reagan is expected to withdraw his proposed sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan in the coming days, well-informed U.S. officials said yesterday.

Reagan's expected decision follows King Hussein's denunciation of U.S. policy last week and the growing opposition to the sale on Capitol Hill since then.

According to reliable sources,

Secretary of State George Shultz and other senior policymakers have now joined with several top Republican Congressmen in recommending to Reagan that the Stinger sale be dropped.

They fear that any long confrontation with Congress over this issue will simply endanger the more important \$220 million programme to create a Jordanian rapid-deployment strike force for use in the Persian Gulf.

At the same time, the administration is anxiously looking for some sort of compromise with Israel's

friends in Congress over pending legislation to force the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Reagan, U.S. officials said, does not want to be confronted during this election year with a congressionally approved bill on the Jerusalem issue that would require either his signing it into law or vetoing it.

There has been talk of dropping the Stinger sale in exchange for some readiness in Congress to compromise over the Jerusalem embassy

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

Lausanne talks end with deal on unity gov't

LAUSANNE (AP). — Lebanon's warring Christian and Moslem leaders ended nine days of reconciliation talks yesterday with agreement to form a government of national unity but without agreement on political reforms to give the feuding communities an equal share of power.

The nine leaders agreed to solidify a cease-fire along Lebanon's civil war fronts.

The first to emerge from the conference hall after yesterday evening's three and a half hour formal session, was Shi'ite Moslem leader Nabih Berri.

Conference sources said the leaders, whose personal rivalries and different religious and ideological backgrounds had plunged Lebanon into nine years of civil war, agreed to the formation of a 32-man "constitutional committee," headed by President Amin Gemayel that would prepare within six months reforms to guarantee a balanced distribution of power between Christians and Moslems.

The sources said an official announcement detailing the resolutions would come out at a later stage yesterday.

They said there was also an agreement on elevating the level of a security committee entrusted with enforcing the cease-fire and taking the necessary measures to separate combatants along the war fronts in Beirut and in the central mountains east of the capital. This committee will also be headed by the Lebanese president.

The second to leave the Beau Rivage Hotel at the end of the meeting was Druse opposition leader Walid Jumblatt.

"There is nothing for us to do here anymore," he told reporters.

The sources said the agreement also included a reiteration of "full commitment to the resolutions of the Geneva conference, especially that insisting on preserving Lebanon's Arab identity."

Lebanese feuding leaders had met in Geneva last November. One Lebanese commenting in

private on the conclusion of the talks said, "this is only a diplomatic way to say we've failed to agree."

Pierre Gemayel, the president's father and leader of the Phalange Party — the largest Christian militia group — said after the session: "Whether we've succeeded in saving Lebanon, I do not know."

Asked whether the meeting had ended "with a question mark," he paused, then reluctantly said, "yes."

The face-saving agreement came after Christians and Moslems at the conference failed to agree on a compromise formula for constitutional reforms.

The formula was presented Monday night by president Gemayel and included reductions in the authorities of the president and an increase in those of prime ministers.

The Lebanese president is by tradition a Maronite Catholic and Christian leaders at the conference immediately opposed the idea which would curtail their influence on the government.

Britain blamed for collapse of EC summit

BRUSSELS (Reuters). — A vital European Community summit, aimed at saving the 10-nation bloc from bankruptcy, ended last night without agreement, Greek and Danish government spokesmen told reporters.

The failure of the summit was also confirmed by a West German official spokesman.

Diplomats said the summit collapsed in disagreement over Britain's demands for substantial reductions in its payments to the community budget.

After 23 hours of grueling talks British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was isolated among her community partners but refused to

back down on her basic positions. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, looking grim, told reporters: "Thatcher provoked the paralysis of the summit. Great Britain must take responsibility for this result."

Earlier Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald walked out of the meeting in a dispute over proposed quotas for Irish milk production, an Irish government spokesman said.

The spokesman said Fitzgerald has "no intention of going back." Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry remained at the summit temporarily to formally enter the Irish reservation on the milk issue, the spokesman said.

Officials said the Irish walkout

was sparked by a fundamental disagreement over the EC's agricultural policy which has caused massive surpluses, especially in milk.

The draft document would have put a strict quota on EC milk production of 98.8 million tons this year, but Ireland would have received a slight increase in its production because of the importance of the dairy industry to the Irish economy.

From the moment Fitzgerald entered the summit talks, his spokesman said, he insisted that his country get a "full exemption" from the quota system.

Gov't giving in on early vote but striving to outlast summer

The government coalition last night seemed resigned to the fact that Knesset elections are to be held during 1984. But while the opposition Alignment and the three-man Tami faction (which on Monday threw the political world into ferment with its decision to call for early elections) are demanding that the date be in early summer, the ruling Likud is striving to put it off until the autumn.

But it was announced that the coalition would try to work out a date agreeable to

all the coalition constituents.

Labour leaders yesterday urged an extension of the Knesset's winter term by one week so that its — or Tami's — bill for early elections can become law before the recess.

Former Likud defence minister Ezer Weizman ended a three-year political silence last night by announcing his intention to create a new list of persons at present outside the Knesset to fight the elections. He stressed the need for

"leadership" but was far from specific as to his proposed list's policies.

Suspicion as to Tami's motives for its sudden switch to supporting an early vote has been aroused by the reports that the Finance Ministry had turned down a request from Tami's Swiss patron, Nessim Gaon, for financial guarantees for a private venture of his in Nigeria.

Motions for dissolving the Tenth Knesset and setting a date for elections are to be presented in the House tomorrow.

Peres and Rabin agree on May 22 election date

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Labour's preferred date for the new elections is May 22, and for once the rivals for the party leadership — chairman Shimon Peres and former premier Yitzhak Rabin — are in full agreement.

A battle between the two is not expected before the coming elections — provided that they are indeed held early. If the polling day is delayed until the end of summer or early autumn, however, the two will fight it out again.

For the time being, neither Peres nor Rabin is interested in a late election date. In Labour it is said that while Peres and Rabin are some way from an actual alliance, they have set up an *ad hoc* "trade union" against former president Yitzhak Navon. Both fear that if there is sufficient time before the elections, Navon could possibly replace them both.

Navon is touring South America and it is not known when he will return.

Fear of Navon has kept Peres and Rabin from another showdown and Peres is seen as the big winner from this. He will be able to cement his leadership.

Rabin cannot risk incurring the wrath of the rest of the party by challenging Peres now and thereby appearing to weaken the party. Rabin is reportedly ready to support a Navon candidacy for premier but, from indications he has had, Rabin feels Navon is not willing to take on Peres or in any way move against him.

Thus the likeliest scenario envisioned in Labour is that Peres, Rabin and Navon will operate as a sort of *troika* if early elections are held.

It is hoped in Labour that very early elections would hinder the efforts of former defence minister Ezer Weizman to set up a new party. This — despite the fact that Weizman has announced he can be ready to contest the elections in a month.

A new centrist party led by

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Weizman to present a list

By MARK SEGAL
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Ezer Weizman yesterday threw his hat into the political ring. He confirmed to *The Jerusalem Post* his intention of running on an independent list, which he said he could put together within a month.

However, he stressed that none of the persons on the list are members of the present Knesset. He even discounted such prospective allies as Liberal mavericks Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman, declaring that "they are part of the gang that was responsible for sending the army into this unfortunate military misadventure in Lebanon."

Weizman, the former Likud defence minister, urged elections as early as possible for fear that if they are put off until November, as mooted by the Likud, the government party — his old party — "will flood the country with colour television sets and other election bribes."

Weizman said he will wait until the Knesset votes to dissolve itself and sets a date for the new election before elaborating on the composition of his new party and its platform.

However, it was clear last night that Weizman's main plank will deal with the Lebanese war and the government's alleged misuse of the Israel Defence Forces he prepared as a deterrent force.

Speaking on Israel Television last night, Weizman expressed his deep disappointment with the Likud, whose successful election campaign he directed in 1977.

He promised "to offer credible leadership to a country that is on the edge of a new calamity." He said neither the Likud nor Labour offers the right solution to Israel's problems.

Explaining his silence for the past three years, Weizman said that he had kept silent because "I did not want to pour oil on the boiling blood."

Disclaiming any comparison with the defunct Democratic Movement for Change, Weizman said he believes history will not repeat itself.

Likud circles last night contended that they have nothing to fear from a Weizman list, which they believe will bite into the Alignment voting potential and not theirs.

Pre-November vote would need new law

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Certain changes will have to be made in the Elections Law if elections are scheduled earlier than next November, Elections Commissioner Meir Shamir told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"After party leaders work out a deal on a date, the House itself may have to change the Election Law," Shamir said. According to Section 13, he explained, certain senior government officials and Israel Defence Forces officers may not be listed as candidates before a 100-

day lapse between their resignations from their positions and becoming contenders for political posts.

"If elections are to be held in June, Section 13 will have to be either repealed or amended."

Shamir was summoned to the Knesset several times yesterday for consultations. As a deputy director-general of the Interior Ministry, he oversees the organizational and technical details of national and municipal elections. Overall direction of Knesset elections is in the hands of the Central Elections Committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Meir Shamgar.

The serjeant-at-arms is the gov't's best-paid employee

Knesset man earns IS338,199 monthly

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

The highest-paid government employee is the Knesset serjeant-at-arms, with a monthly salary of IS338,199.

This was stated at yesterday's joint meeting of the Knesset House and Finance committees, which is dealing with the budget of the Knesset for fiscal 1984.

The salary of the serjeant-at-arms is linked to that of a nizav (commander), the second highest rank in the Israel Police. But, in addition, he receives, like every other permanent Knesset employee, the 35 per cent "parliamentary increment."

The present serjeant-at-arms, Yitzhak Ben-Gal, has been serving since 1967.

IS281,768.

About two years ago, Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor asked the senior Knesset employees — administrative, legal, and security — to waive the parliamentary increment. Only the legal advisers did so, and Savidor then ordered the Knesset treasurer to cease paying the increment even to those who had not agreed to waive it: the top three security personnel and the Knesset Clerk.

Rudy Levy, the commander of the Knesset Guard, went to court on this, and won. Savidor then dismissed him from his post and replaced him with Eitan Ben-Eliahu. But it transpires that his successor benefited from the court ruling, as did the serjeant-at-arms and his assistant.

The ruling has not been applied to the Knesset Clerk, with the

strange result that his salary of IS191,543 (without car allowance) is less than that of one of the two deputy clerks (IS202,951, including car allowance and the parliamentary increment).

The clerk's salary is linked to that of a ministry director-general, and the deputy clerk's salary to that of a deputy director-general.

Another anomaly is that the Knesset Clerk receives less than the secretaries of the finance and law committees. These two officials are linked to the highest rank in the university graduates' civil-service grading, and in addition receive the parliamentary increment.

A Knesset member receives IS221,000, in addition to such perquisites as 25,000 free telephone calls a year, free postage, free bus transportation, and an exceptionally liberal pension system.



Serjeant-at-Arms Yitzhak Ben-Gal (right) and Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor pin the rank of commander of the Knesset Guard on Eitan Ben-Eliahu at a ceremony in January 1983. (Scoop 80)

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last night met again with coalition leaders, who decided to form a committee of seven to try to work out a date for early elections acceptable to the Tami Party and everyone else in the coalition.

This followed the scheduling for today of four private members' bills calling for the dissolution of the Tenth Knesset and the holding of early elections. The motions are likely to be approved on their preliminary reading by a majority of one or two Knesset members, whose intentions — though still unannounced — are nevertheless predictable.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post's* diplomatic correspondent after his meeting last night with Shamir, Tami leader MK Aharon Abuhazzeira said Tami's intention is to bring about broad agreement in the Knesset on an election date. "My assessment is that it will be some time in June," he said.

Abuhazzeira said Shamir had not sought to dissuade Tami from putting its early-elections bill to the vote today. Rather, the prime

minister had sought "to coordinate dates with me," Abuhazzeira said.

Abuhazzeira told Shamir that since Tami wishes early elections in May or June, it will not cooperate in any move for elections in September or later.

Although the Alignment and the rest of the opposition favour May or June, the Likud and the rest of the coalition might manage to hold out for the autumn, whereupon Tami would pull out leaving the Alignment high and dry.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Burg: Need 3-4 months

Interior Minister Yosef Burg said yesterday that at least three or four months are needed to prepare for elections, "and possibly until the (New Year) holidays" (end of September). Speaking to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport after returning from abroad, Burg said the National Religious Party will not be the only one to object to early elections. He said the NRP will join any coalition that guarantees religious requirements. "We are for a national-unity government," he added.

Tami toying with the Likud

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Tami Party yesterday continued to toy with the Likud, alternatively offering a carrot and wielding a stick in support of an offer that could not be refused.

The Likud no longer offered any real resistance yesterday to the notion of early elections, but it did try to talk Tami into agreeing to a later date for the early elections it is forcing on the coalition.

Tami's official spokesman replied with a stick, while unofficially the same party leaders offered the carrot. Tami's leaders openly threatened that if they cannot have elections in May or early June at the very latest, they would abandon the early-elections initiative and, instead, sponsor a no-confidence motion against the government.

They are sure that with the opposition's unanimous support and the cooperation of a few coalition "trouble-makers," they could quite easily bring the government down. Then they would team up with Labour to establish an alternative coalition.

These threats really hit home in the Likud. It is understood there that, while Tami alone would not suffice for the formation of an alter-

native coalition, it could trigger an exodus from the coalition by other small parties.

A senior Likud minister told *The Jerusalem Post* bluntly that it does not appear that his party can do much to ward off the Tami onslaught. The only weapon left in the Likud's hands could be used only during the campaign proper, when the Likud could remind voters that "Tami played hand-in-glove with the Alignment."

That could hurt Tami, since both it and the Alignment appeal to some extent to the same reservoir of voters and neither party has forgotten how Tami supporters chanted "Begin, Begin" in the 1981 elections campaign. An attitude that could be presented as anti-Likud could in the end be detrimental to Tami's own interests.

To prevent such damage to itself, Tami leaders privately said yesterday that if the Likud agrees to elections by early summer, Tami will undertake to rejoin the Likud in a new coalition after the elections. These Tami leaders denied this when confronted with the story openly, but the line was repeated often throughout yesterday in private conversations.

The Tami argument yesterday

(Continued on Page 3)

Burg: We have no plans to transfer top officers

Jerusalem Post Staff

Interior Minister Yosef Burg said last night that there is "no basis" to reports that senior police officers are to be transferred from their posts to other positions in the wake of the controversy following the suspension of Tel Aviv Central Unit chief Nitzav-Mishne Assaf Hefetz for alleged leaks to the press.

Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport on his return from abroad, Burg expressed his strong support for Police Inspector-General Rav-Nitzav Arye Ivztzan and his handling of the police force's "war against leaks."

"The inspector-general received my approval for Hefetz's suspension and for his actions to prevent leaks from the force. Ivztzan enjoys my full support and backing," said the interior minister, who is responsible for the police.

When asked by reporters whether he should not have returned from his week-long swing through Milan, Rome, Oslo and Switzerland on behalf of the United Israel Appeal to take care of the rising storm in the police force, Burg replied: "There's some kind of storm in Israel every single day. My coming back four days earlier wouldn't have changed a thing."

Reports that operations chief Nitzav Zvi Bar, a backer of Hefetz's, would be offered the command of the Prisons Service were also strongly denied yesterday by the Interior Ministry. Bar angered his colleagues by going public with his support of Hefetz in a television interview last Friday.

Burg is scheduled to meet Bar before meeting with the rest of the senior police command on Friday. But the minister's schedule may be changed due to the no-confidence motion in the Knesset.

Hefetz was questioned yesterday morning by police controller Shmuel Eitan about an intelligence document sent from Hefetz's Central Unit in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem one year ago. (See photo, page 2).

The publication of this document, which alerted Jerusalem police to the men suspected of attempting to attack Temple Mount, led to Hefetz's suspension and the row in the senior police command.

Eitan, who is due to submit his findings by Friday, also talked to senior policemen from Jerusalem who received this document and acted on it.

Stock exchange soars

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Share prices soared yesterday, with 391 securities rising by between 5 and 30 per cent. This included 142 issues designated "buyers only."

"The sharp rally was not connected with the prospect of early elections or any other news. It was simply adjustment after the falls in the market last week," a market analyst said.

The shekel was revalued by 18 agorot against the dollar.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

20.3.1984	MIN	MAX	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	6	12	10	Clear
BRUSSELS	2	12	14	Clear
BUDAPEST	16	21	27	Clear
FRANKFURT	2	12	14	Clear
GENEVA	3	12	14	Clear
HELSINKI	10	14	20	Clear
HONG KONG	17	23	17	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	18	24	10	Clear
LONDON	2	11	12	Clear
MADRID	2	11	12	Clear
MILAN	2	11	12	Clear
MUNICH	2	11	12	Clear
PARIS	2	11	12	Clear
ROME	18	24	10	Clear
SAO PAULO	19	24	10	Clear
STOCKHOLM	0	12	14	Clear
TOKYO	1	12	14	Clear
TORONTO	2	11	12	Clear
ZURICH	3	12	14	Clear

* For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	Humidity	Humidity
Jerusalem	46	7-14
Golan	34	4-16
Nahariya	47	—
Safed	47	5-11
Tel Aviv	47	11-19
Tiberias	53	7-20
Nazareth	39	7-18
Yafa	52	5-21
Shimon	42	5-18
Tel Aviv	47	8-20
B-G Airport	52	7-20
Jericho	38	8-21
Gaza	62	10-17
Beersheba	36	6-20
Eilat	23	12-26

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

President Chaim Herzog gave a dinner on Monday evening at his residence in honour of UN Assistant Secretary-General Brian Urquhart and his political adviser, Jean-Claude Aime, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin were among the guests.

Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor yesterday greeted from the speaker's rostrum the 34 members of the Council of Europe's committee on culture and education. The visitors were also the luncheon guests of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee. Later in the day, they called on Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek.

The Uruguayan Ambassador, Dr. Agustín Espinoza Lloveras, accompanied by Ms. Nicole Mousset, Secretary of the Uruguayan Embassy in Brussels, yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute and were met by Mr. David Moushine, Director of Special Affairs.

Austrian Ambassador Otto Pleinert last night gave a farewell dinner at his Herzliya Pithah residence for Finnish Ambassador Erkki Maentakanen.

Luzio Eperjesi, head of the Hungarian contingent to the Hapoel Marathon, called on Histadrut Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel, at Histadrut headquarters yesterday.

MK Tamar Eshel will speak on "Are Volunteers Still Necessary?" at a special Jerusalem Rotary Foundation meeting at 1 p.m. today at the YMCA.

Industry and Trade Ministry Director-General Yehoshua Forer will be the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Haifa Rotary Club in the Nof Hotel at 1 p.m. today.

In Memoriam

A meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the deportation of Hungarian Jews to the death camps took place yesterday at Yad Vashem. President Chaim Herzog spoke.

The American International School in Israel last week dedicated its library in Kfar Shmaryahu to the memory of Kellie Gardner, principal of the school from 1967 to 1971. His widow, Arlette Gardner, attended the ceremony, together with American Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

Rachel and Federico Ehrlich are proud to announce the birth of
DANIEL PHILIP
on March 9, 1984

Grandparents:
Yehudit D. Kirschen, Ya'acov Kirschen, Jerusalem;
Miguel Ehrlich, Brasília, Juana Roisman, São Paulo

Great-grandparents:
Elizbeth Dickman, Philip Dickman, Los Angeles;
Mollie and Max Kirschen, New York;
Katherine Schiffman and Benjamin Ehrlich, Lisbon.

סובלנות
Tolerance
Non-Party Movement for Condemnation of Violence
The public is invited to an open forum and membership meeting.
Chairman: Prof. Ephraim Urbach, member of the presidium

Programme:
Tolerance Prize — Mr. Teddy Kolek, Mayor of Jerusalem
Talk: "What is Verbal Violence?"
Prof. Yitzhak Zamir, Attorney-General
The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22, 1984 (18 Adar Bet 5744) at 6 p.m. at the Van Leer Institute, 43 Reh. Jabotinsky, Jerusalem.

HOME NEWS

Religious heads meet in Petah Tikva tomorrow

By MICHAEL EILAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Leaders of religious councils from all over the country will gather in Petah Tikva tomorrow morning for a private meeting against Sabbath cinema shows in the town.

The meeting was decided upon last week by the Chief Rabbinate Council, at the special meeting it held in Petah Tikva. Avraham Marmorstein, leader of the opposition religious faction in the Petah Tikva municipal council, said yesterday that the heads of the religious councils were particularly interested in the by-law that enabled the Hechal cinema to open on Sabbath eve.

Marmorstein said yesterday that there had been no talk of bringing thousands of yeshiva students from all over the country to demonstrate

against Sabbath desecration. Meanwhile, activists with loudspeakers are trying to mobilize support for the struggle against the Petah Tikva municipality in Jerusalem's Orthodox neighbourhoods. But Marmorstein said yesterday that the religious community in his town did not really need mass support from out-of-town yeshivot.

"We can still get 10,000 people to demonstrate here," he said. "I will continue demonstrating so long as there is no violence. The moment demonstrations get violent, I will step aside," said Marmorstein, leader of the National Religious Party in Petah Tikva, which is aligned with Agudat Yisrael and other religious parties in the struggle against the municipality.

Tami denies election bid arose from Treasury rebuff

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Tami leader Aharon Abuhateira vigorously denied yesterday that his party's call for early elections is connected with its millionaire patron's rebuff by the Finance Ministry in a bid to obtain state guarantees for his commercial enterprises.

"I knew nothing of his visit here," Abuhateira said of Geneva financier Nessim Gaon's brief sojourn in Israel last week when he sounded out political leaders and cabinet ministers on the guarantee proposal. "I myself was not in Israel at the time," Abuhateira added in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

According to earlier reports, confirmed by Finance Ministry sources, Gaon's approach received a non-committal response from Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad. Gaon has reportedly run into liquidity problems connected with his extensive ventures in Nigeria, some of which are conducted jointly with the Histadrut-owned Solel Boneh company.

The ministry yesterday declined to comment on the matter. The new afternoon newspaper *Hadashot*, in a front-page exclusive yesterday, alleged that Gaon's resentment at being turned down by the Finance Ministry had spurred his Tami supporters to make their move against the Shamir government. This, explained, the paper said, the "disparity between Tami's

public decision late last week to defer discussion of early elections until the summer, and Abuhateira's dramatic television announcement on Monday night that the party would table an early-elections bill tomorrow.

There was also a hinted allegation yesterday from a leading minister that Tami had ulterior motives in moving for early elections. Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i (Likud-Liberals) told a radio interviewer that he did not accept Abuhateira's citing the economic situation or the police leakage crisis as Tami's reasons. "There are extraneous motives — which will come to light," Moda'i said darkly.

Abuhateira, speaking to *The Post*, said he had made no approach whatever to the Finance Ministry on Gaon's behalf — "as the Treasury itself will confirm." He denied, too, that there had been any consultation between Tami and Gaon over the decision to move for early elections.

Abuhateira said Tami would seek to broaden the mainly ethnic base of its support in preparation for the elections. "But we will not have an (Ashkenazi) Shoshana Arbely merely to adorn the list," he added.

Shoshana Arbely-Almosino, a middle-ranking Labour Knesset member of Sephardi origin, was elevated to the No. 2 spot on the Alignment's list in a rather obvious effort to attract Sephardi voters.



A Jerusalem detective removes a sniper's rifle from under a tombstone in the Har Hamenuhot cemetery in Givat Shaul yesterday. Cemetery workers who were cleaning the marble inadvertently moved the top of the tombstone and spotted the rifle inside. Police found that the rifle was equipped with a telescopic lens, a fitting for a sniper and a full magazine. The police are investigating. (Yitzhak Elharar)

PERES AND RABIN

(Continued from Page One)

Weizman is regarded in Labour as much of a threat to itself as to the Likud. It is feared that Weizman's party might draw votes away from Labour much as the defunct Democratic Movement for Change did in 1977. Thus, instead of winning over disenchanted Likud voters, the Weizman ticket might attract voters who might otherwise have voted for Labour.

Some Labour sources said that one of the reasons Tami is as adamant as Labour on having elections as soon as possible is a common interest to limit campaign time so that there is no chance to put Navon at the Alignment helm. Navon, it is said, might be dangerous to Tami, as he could attract much of the Sephardi vote.

Alignment Knesset faction chairman Moshe Shahal warned last night that if the coalition tries to delay the adoption of a new elections date because of the impending Knesset recess, his party will collect the signatures of 30 Knesset members every day on petitions calling the House into special daily sessions.

Leopold Turner, 76, dies during visit to Zurich

Leopold (Poldi) Turner, former honorary consul of Switzerland in Haifa, died during a visit to Zurich on Monday. His funeral will take place at Haifa's Kfar Samir cemetery at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Turner was born in Switzerland in 1908. He settled in Haifa in 1935, after his graduation from the Zurich Polytechnic (E.T.H.). Turner represented Swiss interests in the north and fought with Hagana during the War of Independence. As a Rotarian, he tried to secure better technological education for Haifa's youth. He was also a member of the management board of Haifa's symphony orchestra and of the Music Museum. Turner is survived by his wife, Esther, and family.

Pressure on Treasury to offer 'election goodies'

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Finance Ministry yesterday tried to formulate its reaction to the news of impending elections as rumours spread about coalition pressures on Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad to loosen the economic squeeze on the public.

Coalition members said yesterday that Cohen-Orgad has indicated several times he did not intend to implement "election economics" and that he would try to continue on his present course.

Commenting on this, coalition members said the "minister must

remember he is not a civil servant, but a politician."

Ministry officials estimated yesterday that if elections take place in May or June, the Likud will have to cope with the grave difficulties of the economy. April's rate of inflation is expected to reach the 20 per cent mark or higher, and private incomes are expected to erode still further. In the autumn, the economic climate is expected to be somewhat better, although it will still be dominated by high inflation rates.

The officials added that if the government ditched its current

economic policies, the ministry's senior staff, including Director-General Emmanuel Sharon and budget division head Aharon Fogel, may find it hard to come to terms with the change in direction.

But ministry sources asserted that Sharon will probably stay on, if only to salvage whatever possible if there is a long election campaign.

At the same time, there was wide agreement among economists and politicians that from an economic point of view a short campaign will be much cheaper and cause much less damage than a campaign lasting until autumn.

The Alignment's whip in the

Knesset Finance Committee, Adiel Amoral, said yesterday that a long campaign will result in the government's wasting the last reserves in the public coffers and the damaging what remains of Israel's credibility among its foreign creditors.

The Ministerial Economic Committee yesterday approved the Finance Ministry's request for a 15432 billion supplementary budget for the current fiscal year.

The Knesset Economic Committee's chairman, Gad Ya'acobi, called "surrealistic" the argument that elections in November will be better from an economic point of view.



Suspended Tel Aviv Central Unit chief Nitzav Mishne Assaf Hefetz (left) meets with police controller Shmuel Eitan yesterday morning. (Yitzhak Elharar)

Travel-tax hike grounded one more day

Post Finance Reporter

Alignment Knesset members felt a sense of déjà vu yesterday when Speaker Menahem Savidor announced that the government had requested a one-day postponement in the vote on the second reading of the proposal to double travel tax to \$100.

"Proper economics" is back, the

Alignment MKs said. But coalition members reminded them that only a few days ago it was the Alignment that had opposed the tax hike.

Later, coalition members explained that the delay was "technical" and that the proposal would be brought to the plenum today, where it is expected to pass.

EARLY VOTE

(Continued from Page One)

Furthermore, the possibility of Tami doing an about-face and paralyzing the whole idea of an early election cannot be ruled out.

Likud MKs yesterday stated for the record that they will not deliberately cause any delays in the committee stage till after the Pessah recess.

However, this is exactly what will happen, *The Jerusalem Post* was assured by unimpeachable sources. It was to protest against this that Labour leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin called on Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor yesterday and asked for his intervention.

Peres, Rabin and faction chairman Moshe Shahal also asked Savidor to extend the present session through the first week of April, so as to give enough time for the private members' bills to go through all the legislative stages and become law before Pessah.

The Alignment realizes that if these stages are not all completed, the private members' bills will have to wait till May. This would rule out early elections before September, as the Likud, the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisrael and Tehiya all would prefer.

Since the coalition controls the two Knesset committees that decide on such electoral legislation, either directly or indirectly, the approval tomorrow of the private members' bills would not guarantee approval in committee.

Tami's committee representation cannot affect the issue, and Liberal maverick Yitzhak Berman, who campaigns consistently for early elections, would likely be replaced by the Likud, if necessary.

Such Likud tactics could keep the legislation hanging fire for so long, that Tami would get fed up and drop its bid.

The unknown quantities, as of last night, were still the two Telem men, Yigal Hurwitz and Mordechai Ben-Porat; Dror Zeigerman, who was in Argentina; Avraham Melamed, who was in South Africa; and former premier Menachem Begin, who was still confining himself to his home.

The support for early elections by Tami and Yitzhak Berman is still not enough to assure the passage of the legislation on tomorrow's preliminary reading. At least one of the above five men must also deny the Likud his vote. It will probably be Zeigerman, by refusing to come home.

Berman told *The Post* last night that he favours early elections any time this year, mainly in order to make possible the creation of a national unity government. After such elections, once the Likud and the Alignment become aware of their true strength, they will become realistic enough to compromise with each other, he said.

Tami's insistence on "May-June elections or nothing" was due to a host of reasons other than worry about economic catastrophe. Reporters and parliamentarians assumed that Tami wishes to hit the National Religious Party while it is down and out and before it starts to reorganize. Tami also fears the

competition of a Sephardi list based on former members of the Agudat Yisrael Party, which did so well in the Jerusalem municipal elections, and it also fears the vote-casting power of Labour's Yitzhak Navon among Sephardi voters.

Tami also desires very earnestly to expand its parliamentary representation enough to assure both Abuhateira and Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan cabinet seats in the next government. Otherwise, they might be at each other's throats.

Tami leaders furiously denied that their decision to work for early elections had anything at all to do with the reported refusal of the Finance Ministry to give guarantees to Tami patron Nessim Gaon, to help bail him out of the financial troubles his ventures in Nigeria have encountered.

Tami leaders just as energetically denied their move was spurred by police interrogation of Uzan over benefits in the form of furniture that he allegedly got some years ago from a Moshav Movement figure.

The leaders also denied that Tami was trying to hint to the government to stop the interrogation, in return for which Tami would withdraw its election move.

While the matter is still in the hands of the police, a word from high up might make some difference. However, once the police give the file to the attorney-general, it could be too late for Uzan.

Last week Tami leaders wrote Prime Minister Shmir and asked him to see to it that the police complete their investigation as rapidly as possible, since it is both unfair and unprecedented to drag it on interminably.

After yesterday morning's brief cabinet session, Shamir met with Likud ministers, and then with coalition heads, before meeting privately with Abuhateira.

Tami's aim is to get over the first hurdle of the plenum vote tomorrow, which would in itself be a significant achievement for the three-man faction, which is managing thoroughly to manipulate the Knesset.

After that first hurdle, Tami would continue to negotiate the date, which it says must not be later than June.

The Likud last night appeared disoriented and incapable of forming a united front against the Tami tactics. Only La'am's Ehud Olmert vainly urged his colleagues to tell Tami outright that the Likud does not wish elections in 1984 at all.

Olmert told *The Post*: "Tami is a collection of political tricksters and we should call their bluff."

Yehoshua Lacksman, 78
RISHON LEZION (Itim). — Yiddish poet Yehoshua Lacksman died on Monday and was buried the same day in the Rishon Lezion cemetery. He was 78.

Between the two world wars, he was one of the leading writers in Yiddish in Lithuania and taught in the Tarbut schools in Vilna. He and his family came to this country in 1971.

MISSILES TO JORDAN

(Continued from Page One)

sy measure. This could be done in several ways, U.S. officials said.

For example, the lawmakers might agree to substitute a non-binding concurrent resolution for the pending bill. In this way, the sense of the Congress would be expressed without any mandatory response by the president. Another method would replace the bill with a simple letter to Reagan — also non-binding. Others are proposing that an actual floor vote on the bill be procedurally delayed this year.

Administration officials are clearly blaming Hussein for the expected decision to withdraw the sale.

"Hussein wanted to take a shot," one official commented. "The trouble is he forgot to take his pistol out of the holster."

At a news conference yesterday, Shultz said Reagan had been prepared to undertake "a major effort" to get the sale approved. "There's no question," Shultz continued, "that King Hussein's statements constitute a very serious setback."

Shultz pointedly did not deny a report in yesterday's *Washington Post* that he had urged Reagan to drop the sale. In response to questioning, he simply restated support for Jordan's security needs. "Just how this plays itself out remains to be seen," he said.

The special Middle East envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, accompanied by his new deputy, Larry Silberman, were expected to leave Washington last night for a swing through the region, beginning this week in Israel. They are also expected to visit Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and possibly Syria.

Their talks in Amman with Hussein, U.S. officials said, will be very crucial in trying to shore up U.S.-Jordanian ties in the aftermath of Hussein's most recent comments and the expected decision to drop the Stinger sale.

At the news conference, Shultz linked Hussein's comments to the U.S. failures in Lebanon. "No doubt about it," Shultz said.

But the secretary sought to put his best face forward by insisting that the U.S. role in Lebanon was by no means yet over. He said the "essentiality" of the U.S. to all those in the region would become clear in the coming days.

Reporters appeal ban on suspect's name

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Journalists who cover the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday filed an appeal in the district court against a decision, by a judge of the lower court banning the publication of the name of the manager of a financial institution who is suspected of fraud, and violation of trust.

The suspect was arrested on Monday and released on bail, and publication of her name and any identifying detail was banned.

The appeal was filed by journalists Aya Orenstein, Ilana Alon, Zvi Harel and Moshe Ronen. They argue that the ban was directed at them specifically and thus prevented them from performing their jobs. They also argue that the ban has no legal basis and state that it discriminates between this suspect and other persons brought before a judge for remand and whose names are published.

At the remand hearing on Monday, a police representative said the woman used her position of acting manager of the firm to back-date

her private purchase of shares which had shown a profit, to buy shares for a customers' account without his knowledge and to transfer resulting profits to the firm, to transfer illegally the assets of a deceased customer into a dummy account, and to commit several other acts of fraud.

The defence attorney asked the judge to ban publication of his client's name, because her firm has thousands of customers and might suffer great harm if it were identified. Magistrates Court Judge Yehoshua Ben-Shlomo issued the ban, released the suspect on IS-500,000 bail, and forbade her to leave the country.

District Court Judge Arye Even-Ari is to hear the journalists' appeal today.

THEATRE — The children's and young people's theatre organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture has been invited to participate in a world festival of theatre for youth in New Orleans in July.

CORRECTION — please note time of meeting.

AMERICAN MIZRACHI WOMEN

Jerusalem, Chug
invites the members of all chugim to
A MEMORIAL MEETING,
observing the shloshim of our beloved

JENNY FINK

to be held today, Wednesday, March 21, 1984 at 3:00 p.m.
in the Jenny Fink Dining Hall,
Beit Tze'ot, Jerusalem, 79 Rashi Street,
Jerusalem Chug

Our beloved

PAULGERHARD BLUMENFELD

is no more.

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, March 21, 1984 at 3 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery, Tel Aviv.

Ilse Blumenfeld
Tomi and Carol Sadeh
Edna and Mordechai Shvuron
Helga and Gustav Stern
Grandchildren and all the family.

Nuns' slayer ordered hospitalized

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday determined that Aloysius Jay Garrow murdered two Russian Orthodox nuns in Ein Kerem last May, but is not liable for punishment because he is mentally ill. The court ordered him hospitalized, but a Jerusalem district attorney announced that proceedings are under way to deport him.

Garrow, 30, a U.S. citizen, had admitted all the charges against him. According to the indictment, Garrow entered the grounds of the Gorny Convent on the night of May 20, 1983 and stole three knives from one of the residences. He then entered an adjoining house, inhabited by two nuns, Barbara Vespikoff, 68, and her daughter, Veronika, 45.

Garrow first attacked the daughter, stabbing her to death in the neck and chest, and then killed the mother, stabbing her in the back and chest.

The prosecutor, district attorney Michael Shaked, recalled to the court that Garrow had admitted the crimes to a friend, who had so testified at the beginning of the trial. Shaked also recounted details of a recording made by the police, in which Garrow "conversed" with himself about why he killed the nuns.

In the recording Garrow related to his "spiritual voice" that he came to Israel to witness the Messiah's

arrival in Jerusalem. During his two-year stay, in which he worked at a youth hostel in Ein Kerem, he also said he realized Israel's existence was threatened by Russia.

He told what he called his "spirit" that he had discovered a baby in Ein Kerem who would become the Messiah. When he read in the press that there were Soviet missiles in Lebanon, he said, he realized these were aimed at Jerusalem and thus endangered the "messiah."

The prosecutor added that Garrow had revealed details of the crime that could only have been known by the perpetrator, such as the facts that three knives had been involved and that the daughter had been killed first. Shaked agreed that Garrow was ill at the time of the crime and did not understand his actions.

Judges Elihu Noam, Zvi Tal and Meir Midin ruled that, in view of his confession, Garrow was guilty as charged. However, due to his impaired mental health, they ruled he was not liable for punishment, but must be hospitalized.

Prosecutor Shaked then told the court that a deportation order already exists, and that technical arrangements are underway to expel Garrow from the country. (Iim)

In Rothschild Hospital dispute with Health Ministry

Finance Ministry budget experts 'surprised'

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Health Ministry's decision not to allocate funds to the Rothschild Hospital to complete its west wing has surprised budgetary experts in the Finance Ministry. The *Jerusalem Post* learned last night.

A source in the Finance Ministry said they had expected funds to be included in next year's budget in view of outstanding debts to building contractors.

The source also questioned the economic advisability of stopping

funding at this stage when parts of the project are scheduled for completion within the next few months.

He said the Finance Ministry's budget department had raised these and other points with the Health Ministry, adding that the arguments made by Rothschild staff and the Friends of the Rothschild Hospital Society should not be ignored.

A spokesman for the Friends Society said these comments supported their demands that the Health Ministry restore funds for the west-wing project. The Ministry

had been expected to allocate \$1.5 million in next year's budget.

"We had been led to believe that the decision to stop funding had been forced on the Health Ministry by the Finance Ministry. Now we have learned that this was not the case," the spokesman said.

Staff at the hospital are now demanding an urgent meeting with Health Minister Eliezer Shostak to discuss this latest issue. They have threatened to close down the entire hospital unless their demands are met.

Senior Health Ministry official resigns his post

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The head of the Health Ministry's Food Administration Department, Dr. Jerry Westin, is resigning from the ministry at the end of this month, informed sources confirmed yesterday.

Westin's decision follows notification from his superiors that he was being removed from his position after serving one year as head of the service. The superiors contend that Westin's performance has "not been what was expected of him," the sources said.

Other sources, however, maintained that Westin, who came to the ministry three years ago after years of service with the Consumer Protection Society, has been in constant conflict with some of his superiors over criteria and standards for licensing food-processing units.

A senior aide to the health minister who serves as spokesman refused to allow Westin to comment, nor would he himself comment on behalf of the ministry yesterday.

Remands extended in Ramallah bus-shooting case

The Jerusalem Magistrates Court yesterday extended the remands of four of the five suspects in the Ramallah bus shooting earlier this month. Seven persons were wounded in the early-morning attack on the bus carrying Arab workers to their jobs.

Three of the suspects were remanded into custody for an additional 15 days, while the fourth was ordered held for another week. A fifth suspect was remanded last week for 15 days.

Yesterday's hearing, like all the preceding ones, was held behind closed doors and the court extended

the ban on publication of the suspects' names and all details of the investigation. Journalists were barred from entering Jerusalem police headquarters during the hearing, which was held in the office of the head of the Jerusalem district criminal investigations division.

Three of the five suspects are cooperating with police in the bus-shooting case, Iim reports. But none of the detainees is cooperating in other aspects of the investigation including the arsons of Arab-owned cars and institutions in the Jerusalem area, it said. (Iim)

TOYING WITH LIKUD

(Continued from Page One)

that it was not acting in any way against the Likud and that it has no designs on the Likud vote. On the contrary, argued Tami's leaders, they have the best interests of the Likud in mind.

They strove to convince Likud politicians yesterday — from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on down — that the earlier the elections, the better the Likud's prospects.

The Likud would not only not lose, they maintained, but would likely improve its standing.

The earlier the elections, according to the Tami line, the less time Ezer Weizman will have to organize a new party. The Alignment would have to run under the leadership of Shimon Peres rather than the possibly more popular leadership of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the potentially even more popular leadership of former president Yitzhak Navon. At the same time, of course, the Likud would be spared a showdown between Shamir and his deputy, David Levy.

Heard insiders told *The Post* that a Shamir contest is indeed unlikely. Such evaluations came both from the Shamir and the Levy camps. The feeling in both camps is that the Likud would not succeed in putting off the elections till November and that it will have to agree to a summer date.

That would leave no time for a competition, but such a contest would anyway not be in Levy's interest. He is not considered to have much chance of defeating an incumbent premier and from his point of view it would be more prudent to wait as No. 2 and then lead the party in the next elections.

Levy himself met privately with Shamir yesterday, after the prime minister's caucus with Likud ministers. Later, he stated that he would do all in his power "to foster comradeship and the spirit of good fellowship in the party. We will do

all to succeed in these elections and will not do anything to hurt our chances. The attitude will be friendly and constructive."

One indication of a possible truce in Herut was the increasing pressure on former finance minister Yoram Aridor to resume his post as chairman of the party secretariat, to avoid a fight for the influential post between the rival factions.

Perhaps the one challenge Shamir will face will come from frustrated former defence minister Ariel Sharon. Sharon will probably not resist the temptation to take Shamir on and thereby get his revenge for not having been given a cabinet portfolio, despite his support for Shamir in the Shamir-Levy contest following former prime minister Menachem Begin's resignation.

In the Liberal Party there was increasing speculation last night about the next move of mavericks Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman if Weizman decides not to include them in the new list he is reported to be putting together.

If they remain out in the cold, their entire political future could be in question. They are considered to have effectively burned their bridges in the Liberal Party and might remain without a home in Weizman's new party.

If this happens, or if the threat that this would happen is real enough, the two might rethink their support of early elections, it was said in the Liberal Party last night. For the time being, however, there was no indication that Berman had changed his mind.

Zeigerman might not show up for the crucial vote tomorrow, since he is one of a four-member Knesset delegation in Argentina. The coalition is not eager to have him back, lest he vote with the opposition. Labour MK Uzi Baram and Tehiya MK Geula Cohen are likely to remain in Argentina, cancelling each other out, while Labour MK Menahem Hacohen is flying home.

Beduin ask to be drafted

Special to the Jerusalem Post

NAZARETH. — Many young Beduin from the North have asked to be conscripted into the Israel Defence Forces under the National Service Law. Many Beduin have served in the security forces, receiving the same salaries and social benefits as soldiers in the regular army.

Beduin representatives said yesterday that their people have come to the conclusion that if they wish to gain equal rights, they have to do military service under the same conditions as Jewish youth.

Binyamin Gur-Arye, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, welcomed the Beduin request, adding that the IDF will induct all those who meet its requirements.

Alleged grave-robbers appeal detention order

TEL AVIV (Iim). — The two men charged with removing the remains of Tereza Anghelovici from her grave in the Rishon LeZion cemetery and dumping them in the Ramle's Muslim cemetery yesterday appealed against the decision of the Rehovot Magistrates Court that they be detained until the end of their trial.

Judge Avraham Malui will hear the appeal in the Tel Aviv District Court tomorrow.

In their appeal, David Ehrenfeld and Meir Agassi, both 34 and employees of the Rishon LeZion burial society, say they are the sole providers for their families. They also claim they rebuffed the body with all due respect.

Fire in youth hostel

A fire broke out at Jerusalem's Beit Atid youth hostel yesterday lunchtime. No one was hurt and damage was slight.

Three residents fled to the roof of the building at Agron corner Keren Hayesod and had to be helped down by police.

The fire started on the second floor of the hostel, apparently after an electric oven fell to the floor and set fire to some paper.

The blaze was quickly brought under control and the damage caused was light.

Eilat Port very busy

EILAT (Iim). — Activity at the port here has picked up to reach record levels in the past two weeks, with the port's piers working at full capacity loading or offloading four ships.

Two more ships are anchored in the harbour, waiting for pier space, and two additional ships are expected to arrive in Eilat next week.

All of the port's workers are fully employed, following a particularly sluggish period recently.

J'lem Rotary stipends to 107 high-schoolers

The Jerusalem Rotary Club will distribute its annual scholarships to 107 students of high schools in the capital in a ceremony in the municipal council chamber at 6 p.m. today, in the presence of Mayor Teddy Kolek and other city dignitaries.

Seventy-four 11th-graders will get stipends of \$50 each and 33 members of the graduating class, who in 11th grade got \$50, will tonight get \$30 each. The stipend winners are Jewish and non-Jewish students — one from each of 107 secondary-school-level schools throughout the city. The stipends come from the earnings of a \$50,000 endowment fund, which, according to Jerusalem Rotary Foundation chairman Joachim Meisler, the club plans to double.

Histadrut's goals include establishing five-day week

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Full employment, increased productivity, a five-day work week, and a minimum wage amounting to half the national average wage are among the Histadrut's goals for the coming two years.

The labour federation's central committee yesterday unanimously approved a document of economic and social principles that will guide its policy-making in the years 1984-1986. The document will go to the Histadrut executive committee for approval on April 5.

The document was drawn up by the Histadrut's trade union department and was twice discussed by the central committee. It sets out general goals, as well as specific demands to be raised in negotiations with the government and the private employers. The central demand will be the payment of a monthly cost-of-living allowance to compensate

workers for wage erosion.

The Histadrut will also demand the revision of tax brackets and the payment of allowances (such as child allowances) either monthly, or simultaneously with the payment of the C-o-L allowance.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel said at yesterday's meeting of the central committee that the likelihood of early elections has no bearing on the labour federation's future policy. That policy is good for every government, he said. Meshel stressed that the Histadrut will continue its deliberations with employers' representatives and Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad on guaranteeing full employment, maintaining real wages, supporting exports and increasing productivity.

Meshel warned against the prospect of what is termed "election economics," and called for a short electioneering period.

Speaking later yesterday at a plenary meeting of the trade union

department, department chairman Yisrael Kessar said that of the 10 principles contained in the policy document, the most important are those relating to ensuring full employment and increasing production and productivity. The Histadrut, he said, will take the initiative to step up productivity. There is no reason, he added, that the Israeli worker should be less productive than his counterparts in Europe — particularly as the Israeli worker "is very productive when it comes to tanks and fighter planes."

Kessar took the government to task for instituting cuts in the one area to which funds should be directed — the training and retraining of workers to cope with industrial changes. Israel is behind when it comes to the adoption of new technology, Kessar said. He called on the various unions to establish funds for retraining, and to expend those already existing.

Kessar acknowledged that the next C-o-L allowance, to be paid

with the May salary slips, will be calculated according to the old system — 90 per cent on three months' salary. But he expressed the hope that subsequent allowances will be paid monthly.

The employers, he said, are open to a new agreement, though they are still holding out for payment every two months.

Kessar stressed that the Histadrut will not agree to enshrine the workers' 15 per cent drop in wages in a "package deal," as demanded by Cohen-Orgad. The Histadrut, he said, will maintain real wages through the C-o-L allowance and work agreements.

He also called on the workers to fight for the unionization of all workers. The managements of some of the country's most advanced companies did not allow their workers to unionize, he charged, though they themselves were organized as members of economic organizations.

(Histadrut News — page 8)

Histadrut health fund presents its budget

TEL AVIV (Iim). — Kupat Holim Clalit yesterday submitted its 1984/85 budget, totalling IS131 billion, to its national council for approval. The Histadrut health fund's budget last year was IS55b.

The government's share of the health fund's budget has been steadily declining, acting treasurer Eli Shepinitz pointed out. In 1978, the government covered 30 per cent of the budget; this year, the government's participation is only 12 per cent.

This year's outlays are as follows: salaries, IS60m; hospitalization costs, IS55b.; medicines, IS15b.; and upkeep and maintenance, IS11b.

Income will be derived from the following sources: members' dues, IS48b.; employers' payments, IS16b.; and government payments, IS16b.



Astra, the Israel Aircraft Industries' new executive jet, makes its first test flight earlier this week. The IAI has already received an order for 10 planes from American companies. Each aircraft costs \$6 million.

Coalition formed to fight against religious coercion

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The constraints of Halacha are a danger to the continued existence of the State of Israel, leaders of the Movement Against Religious Coercion and for Separation of State and Religion warned yesterday.

"Our non-political movement has become a coalition, and we are starting out anew in our struggle against 'obedience to Halacha,' movement leader Uri Hupert, a former Jerusalem municipal councillor, told reporters in Jerusalem.

"The Tereza Anghelovici disinterment episode points up the danger of giving Orthodox Judaism a decisive role in services offered by the state, such as burial, marriage and divorce," he said.

The anti-coercion coalition includes the Progressive Reform Movement in Israel, The Humanist Secularist League and Hashomer Hatzair. Representatives also were present yesterday from Peace Now and the Civil Rights Movement, which sympathize with the movement but have not yet joined.

Hupert said his movement is forming a Knesset lobby and will be financed with the help of a prominent Jerusalem industrialist, whom he refused to identify.

Hashomer Hatzair representative is Nahum Solan, a member of the Zionist Executive, said the "Who is a Jew" controversy should be settled quickly by recognizing any person as a Jew upon his own personal declaration, without delving into his identity.

Tuvia Ben-Horin, spiritual leader

of the Progressive (Reform) Movement, said: "The Zionist credo forbids tying modern Israel to the past, and that is why we agree that when Halacha and secular law clash, the latter should prevail."

Hupert and Ben-Horin fully back Petah Tikva Mayor Dov Tavori's efforts to legalize operation of businesses and cinemas on the Sabbath, and think Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek should initiate similar legislation in the capital, "except in ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods."

Ben-Horin added that his congregants are eagerly awaiting the ruling of the High Court in their appeal for the right of Reform rabbis to be the officiating rabbis in marriage and divorce proceedings in Israel.

Marriages of Jews and non-Jews should be permitted in Israel, with the rites held in a non-religious place, such as a court of law, he added.

Kiryat Ata strike ends

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The general strike by Kiryat Ata's 700 municipal workers is over. They agreed to return to normal work after receiving their February salaries.

Local council chairman Ya'acov Ben-Daniel said the municipality, with the agreement of the Interior Ministry, borrowed IS40 million to pay the workers' wages. Negotiations between the municipality and the ministry over consolidating Kiryat Ata's debts of IS220m. are continuing, he said.

Herzog urges tolerance by religious and non-observant

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

President Chaim Herzog yesterday called for mutual tolerance by the religious and non-observant sectors of the population, adding that "there is a great deal of senseless hatred" in the country today.

Herzog was speaking at a Beit Hanassi reception for heads of Bnei Akiva yeshivot led by former Knesset member Rabbi Moshe Zvi Neriya and including MK Haim Druckman, head of the Or Ezzion Yeshiva in Shafr.

Herzog, who noted that Neriya was his counsellor when he was active in a Jerusalem Bnei Akiva chapter as a youth, appealed to Bnei Akiva, the National Religious youth movement which also sponsors a network of yeshivot, to serve as a "bridge of tolerance" between the sectors of the population contending with each other over the religious issue. Herzog added that the movement was not prominent enough as a mediator in the dispute.

This, he believed, is a natural role for Bnei Akiva, because no one could accuse it of being anti-religious or anti-nationalist.

The president recalled his days as a student at the Hebron Yeshiva in Jerusalem, when most of his peers were members of either the Hagana or the Irgun Zva' Leumi. But today, he noted with sadness, serving in the Israel Defence Forces is much less common in Hebron Yeshiva and others that have shifted to the religious right.

Herzog would not accede to Rabbi Neriya's request that he make a statement on the Shabbat controversy in Petah Tikva. Only when both sides in an issue turn to him and agree beforehand to accept his recommendations would he intervene, Herzog said.

Such was the case in the recent dispute over a blasphemous line in the Haifa Theatre play *The Messiah*, in which both sides asked Herzog for a way out of a violent confrontation. Herzog noted that over 90 per cent of the mail he received following his intervention supported his recommendation that the line be deleted from the play.

Bnei Akiva runs 34 educational institutions all over the country, which have more than 12,000 male and female pupils.

Negev man held for counterfeiting, drugs

YEROHAM. — The Negev police

are holding a 22-year-old Yeroham resident on suspicion of printing counterfeit IS1,000 notes and possessing hashish.

Police were tipped off by Haim Zichri, 31, who found that the Amidar apartment he received two months ago and which he first entered on Monday morning was

not empty. The flat contained photocopied IS1,000 bills, some of which were coloured in with felt-tip pen to look authentic, and a piece of hashish (later weighed in at 22.6 grams) in a garbage can.

Police stalked the apartment and later took the suspect into custody for further questioning.

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NEW Kneidlach

NEW 778 "Homemade" Horse-radish

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We are happy to inform those who are particular about kashrut observance at Passover that Mata Food Industries Ltd., located in Emek Hefer, a foodstuffs company operating under our supervision, is for the third time producing a special margarine for Passover, made from pure cotton-seed oil (the "Diamond" brand being based on palm oil). It is kosher for Passover — positively containing no pulses, or ingredients grown in a Sabbatical year. This product is a revolutionary innovation, of great benefit to those who do not eat pulses at Passover. This special margarine is sold in distinctive tubs, differing from that of margarine intended for those who do eat pulses.



With best wishes for a kosher, and happy Passover
(—) signed
Rabbi Yisrael Low
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WORLD NEWS

'Libyan leader rejected attack on Tel Aviv'

Numeiri taunts Gaddafi over raid

KHARTOUM (AP). — President Ja'afar Numeiri yesterday taunted Libyan leader Mu'amar Gaddafi for sending a Soviet-built long-range bomber to raid a Sudanese city while denying a request by Palestinian terrorists for a similar plane to mount a suicide attack on Tel Aviv.

In a speech at the eastern town of Gedarf, capital of Kassala province, Numeiri said the Gaddafi-blocked Palestinian plan was to avenge the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned Libya, which has common borders with both Sudan and Egypt, that his armed forces stand ready to repel any new attack on either country.

Numeiri and Mubarak spoke one

day after the arrival in Egypt of two U.S. A-106 aircraft to bolster Egyptian and Sudanese air defenses against a recurrence of Friday's raid on Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman by a Soviet-made TU-22 bomber.

Sudan, Egypt and the U.S. said the bomber was Libyan. Libya denied this, condemning the A-106 mission as an "impudent provocation" and said it was capable of destroying the radar surveillance planes in Egyptian or Sudanese skies.

"Mu'amar Gaddafi who sent the Soviet-built Tupolev 22 plane to hit Sudan's capital and its radio station is the same Mu'amar who rejected, during the Israeli siege of Lebanon, a Palestinian request to

lend them a single plane of the same type to carry out a suicide attack on Tel Aviv," Numeiri said in his speech broadcast live by Omdurman Radio and monitored in Khartoum.

"Gaddafi replied that if he accepted, he would be slain... If he accepted, he would expose Libya to the danger of (Israeli) revenge," Numeiri added.

"Today Gaddafi is sending the same plane to hit Sudan, not Israel, and to attack the Sudanese, not to deter the Israelis," he said. Numeiri accused Gaddafi of being behind "Iranian terrorism" in the Gulf region and "the hand of sabotage" in Britain, a reference to a string of bombings in London and Manchester last week.

India accuses top Sikh leader of sedition

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — The Indian government yesterday accused the country's top Sikh leader of sedition and banned the main Sikh student union, setting the scene for a possible showdown in the troubled northern state of Punjab.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said arrests continued for the second day running in the Sikh's holy city of Amritsar and top security officials flew to New Delhi for high-level talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

PTI reported that the government registered a case of sedition against

Harchand Singh Longowal, Sikh saint and the leader of a campaign for religious concessions and greater political autonomy for the state.

The case is based on an open letter distributed among delegates attending the Commonwealth heads of government conference in the Indian capital in November.

The government move was made two weeks before the start of a campaign ordered by Longowal to burn hundreds of copies of the Indian constitution in a protest against what Sikhs say is a clause dis-

criminating against them. In the letter to Commonwealth leaders, Longowal urged them to come to the aid of Sikhs and preserve the Sikh faith.

Sikh leaders reacted angrily at the banning of the All India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF) which the government has accused of inciting violence.

Punjab has been swept by a spate of Hindu-Sikh killings in the past five weeks. More than 90 people have been killed in the state since the start of the year.

Kuwait takes steps towards mobilization in case of war

KUWAIT (AP). — The Kuwaiti government has started the implementation of a public mobilization plan to appraise the war potentials of this Gulf oil-rich state. Defence Minister Sheikh Salem al-Sabah was quoted as saying yesterday. He told the newspaper al-Kabir that the plan "applies to both citizens and foreigners."

The disclosure was made as the parliament, the National Assembly, started a debate on the 42-month-old Iraq-Iran war and its implications on the Gulf region.

This is the first public mobilization plan in any of the conservative Arab Gulf states geared to developing a joint defence strategy. Kuwait, along with its member-states in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — are worried about the fallout of the war particularly as Iran repeatedly threatens to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the southern outlet of the Gulf.

"The mobilization plan is aimed at evaluating the technical, medical and engineering cadres in the country as a prelude for calling them up in case of public mobilization to defend the country," Sheikh Salem said.

He gave no further details about the mechanics and objectives of the plan, but Kuwaiti leaders have repeatedly voiced deep concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, the prospects of its expansion and the possible intervention by the superpowers in the Gulf in case the Hormuz was closed by Iran.

Slow driving disqualifies woman, 91

ARUNDEL, England (AP). — Lilian Sloman, 91, had a perfect driving record for 70 years, but it came to an end Monday when she lost her licence for driving too slowly on a highway.

Police ticketed her December 15 after being held up in a traffic jam caused by her slow-but-sure 15-kilometres-per-hour on a West Sussex highway, where the limit is 100/kph.

Magistrate David Bowerman, who ordered her disqualified from driving until she passes a test, told Sloman on Monday: "You have had a long and very distinguished career and an absolutely clean licence, which must be something of a record. I think you should be congratulated. But the time has come when you have to stop driving." Sloman's lawyer, Stephen Williams, told the court: "I am quite privileged to represent such an experienced driver. Unfortunately, she has carried on for too long." She admitted to driving without reasonable consideration, but was not fined.

Earthquake hits central Asian USSR

MOSCOW (AP). — A powerful earthquake struck the Soviet central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan early yesterday, destroying buildings and rocking the major cities of Tashkent and Samarkand, the official news agency Tass reported.

The report made no mention of casualties in the area. It said the earthquake shook towns and cities on an 800-kilometre line from Tashkent southwest to Ashkhabad

on the Soviet-Iran border. Soviet authorities rarely give specifics on damages and casualties from natural disasters. The fact that any damage was reported at all could indicate the quake caused serious destruction.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, said it registered at 7.1 on the Richter scale of ground motion, meaning it was a "major" quake capable of widespread heavy damage.

Kabul minister's absence sparks rumours

ISLAMABAD (Reuters). — Afghanistan's defence minister failed to appear at an important military parade in Kabul last week, sparking speculation that he had been replaced. Western diplomats here said yesterday.

They said Lieutenant-General Abdul Khader missed the parade on March 14, a major event that President Babrak Karmal attended with several generals and the head of the Afghan intelligence service.

Quoting reports from their embassies in Kabul, the diplomats said Khader was believed to have been replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammed Aslam Watanjar, communications minister and head of the Kabul military region.

Afghan exiles in Peshawar were unable to confirm any reshuffle, but said Khader had been in hospital recently for an eye ailment. Their sources said this could be a pretext for replacing him.

East German PM's relatives arrive in West

FRANKFURT (Reuters). — Relatives of East German Prime Minister Willi Stoph, who took refuge in West Germany's Prague embassy last month and demanded permission to emigrate, arrived in the West yesterday.

Border police said Ingrid Berg, 28, her 35-year-old husband Hans-Dieter, and children Jens, 8, and Simone, 3, crossed into West Germany at Wartha-Herleshausen in Thuringia and drove to a refugee camp at Giessen.

Police keep a quarter of UK's mines open

LONDON (AP). — Militant miners yesterday accused the Conservative government of operating a "paramilitary state" as a huge police operation kept about one quarter of the country's coal mines working on the ninth day of a strike against pit closures.

On Monday, police stopped Kent pickets at Dartford Tunnel, 210 kilometres from Nottinghamshire, Britain's second largest coal field and focus of resistance to the strike against pit closures that has split the powerful National Mineworkers Union.

Leaders of the struck Kent coal field in southeast England said they planned to seek a High Court injunction yesterday barring the police from setting up roadblocks stopping pickets trying to head for central Nottinghamshire, where miners have refused to strike.

With 8,000 police alerted across the nation for the second straight

day to escort working miners into pits and hold back pickets, the state-owned National Coal Board reported 42 of its 174 coal mines operating normally yesterday. That was two fewer than on Monday.

Eight other pits where miners turned up were producing only small amounts of coal. Handfuls of miners turned up at three others, but there was no production. Apart from that total of 53 pits, the remainder were idle, said a coal board spokesman. Last Friday, before the huge police operation, only 11 mines were producing normally.

Sports

Betar make it

Post Sports Staff
Betar Tel Aviv made their way through to the quarter-finals of the State Cup yesterday. But they did so only by the skin of their teeth. Uni Malmillian giving them only a 1-0 victory over Second Division Hapoel Petah Tikva two minutes from time.

Actually, Betar dominated the game throughout the 90 minutes, but they crashed again and again in vain against the combination of dour defence, brilliant goalkeeping by Guy Levy, and luck that seemed to be conspiring to deny them victory. Twice Betar shots slammed against the woodwork.

The 5,000 crowd, almost all of them Betar supporters, were going frantic, thinking that their heroes would fail to win for the eighth consecutive time, once again through inability to finish movements with goals.

Then, at last, Malmillian collected the ball 30 metres from the Hapoel goal-line. He wove his way through the defence to a point only ten metres from the goal. From there he shot in an unstoppable winner, and the YMCA crowd went mad.

Betar face Hapoel Lod in the quarter-finals on April 14.

Only 903 m. extra

By JACK LEON
Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Participants in Monday's fourth annual Tel Aviv marathon complained that the race seemed to be abnormally long. And when the course was measured again yesterday, officials found that the runners had indeed run an extra 903 metres on top of the classic distance of 42.195 kms.

Hapoel secretary-general Yitzhak Ofer told me last night that the dozen overseas runners had accepted in good spirit an apology for the error, which will be officially noted in all references to the race.

Columbian star Domingo Thomas, 33, who was the mid-marathon leader, told me that he is now preparing for his fourth Olympics. He will compete in the marathon and 10,000m. He is South American champion in both these distances, and in the 5,000m, as well. The 25-year-old Israeli runner, who came second in the mile, is also running in the Los Angeles marathon. Both brothers, with their beards and fine bone structure giving them an aura of the exotic, were great favourites with the crowd. Israel's 19-year-old Yehudit Haila followed them home in the mile. France's Jean Fages set a new Israeli record for the over 40's.

Shlomo's good win

Post Sports Staff
Shlomo Glickstein achieved one of his finest victories for some time when he defeated Peter Fleming ranked 26 in the world, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the Cuore Cup \$365,000 tennis tournament in Milan.

Other winners are Tomas Smid, Vitas Gerulaitis, Anders Jarryd, Johan Kriek, Henri Leconte, Steve Denton, Dick Stockton and Brad Drewett. As both John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors have withdrawn for health reasons, Mats Wilander has become the top seed expected to win.

In Dallas, Melissa Gurney, a new American 16-year-old in girls, with a brace on her teeth, won her first game as a professional, defeating Sophie Amich 6-3, 2-6, 6-1. She used steady ground shots to offset a weak service. Virginia Wade fought Pam Shriver all the way, but lost in the end 7-5, 6-4.

Test battles

Post Sports Staff
Three cricket Tests played around the globe saw matches swing around as fortunes fluctuated due to some fighting cricket.

In Port-of-Spain, Australia, 255 all out, seemed to have West Indies by the throat, when the Windies lost four wickets very cheaply. But Vijay Richards (76), Gus Logie (63 not out) and Andre Dujon (57 not out) got on top of the Australian bowlers, to take the score to 317 for 5.

The Pakistanis, in Lahore, playing dull dour cricket aiming at a draw, ended the day 68 runs behind England's first innings score, with four wickets still to fall.

The Sri Lankans lost two quick wickets against New Zealand in Colombo, recovered through a 163 partnership between Roy Diaz (103) and Sidath Wettimuni, and then collapsed again to end with 289 for 9 declared. They made 174 in the first innings. New Zealand, 192 in the first innings, are 6 for none.

From his Birmingham hospital bed, Ian Botham has apologised to his "many friends in Pakistan" for remarks he made criticising the food and lodging. Inter alia, he said, "I think it's a place to send your mother-in-law, all expenses paid." But he now says he spoke so critically only because he was feeling down, immediately after his knee operation. Graham Dilley, hero of the Falsabad Test, has flown home for medical tests because of a lack of feeling in his thigh during the past few weeks.

Hot Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP). — In a match between two regional National Basketball Association teams, the Utah Jazz proved themselves fiercer — and considerably better — than the Detroit Pistons. Jazz got 43 points from forward-guard Adrian Dantley, the League's scoring leader, and a season-high 42 points from guard John Drew to give Utah their fourth consecutive victory, and to hand Detroit their fourth consecutive loss, 143-125 in the only NBA game on Monday night.

The victory extended the Jazz' Midwest Division lead to two games over Dallas, while the Pistons fell 1½ games behind Central Division leader Milwaukee with the league's playoffs just a month away.



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A WORK-STUDY programme in Israel for retired American Jews run by B'nai B'rith and the aliyah department of the World Zionist Organization has proved to be far more satisfying than sitting on the beach in Florida.

That's the verdict of those who joined this four-month pioneering programme. Coming at their own expense these 48 American Retirees in Israel (ARI) were able to experience the country in depth by involving themselves in various types of volunteer work.

"I have been to Israel many times," said Estel Kilar whose son lives on Kibbutz Harel. "But not until this visit did I really love the country." Working at the JNF forest, cutting and collecting twigs to prevent fires and insect attacks, the Kylars and their group were able, for the first time, to involve themselves in the country directly through working the land, and not only by giving financial support from afar. Like the pioneers before them they made the country part of themselves through physical work on the land.

Others in the ARI group made the country their own through volunteer work with the people of Israel. They volunteered in the schools, at Laniado Hospital, Malben old age home, Alyn workshop for the handicapped, and many other Netanya institutions.

Netanya, with its large number of retirees in volunteer programmes, its active AACI which was very helpful to the group and its friendly English-speaking population, was the perfect location for the project.

"THE MOST EXCITING experience," said Mrs. Eva Slater, "was, believe it or not, cleaning the streets of Netanya in a city-wide campaign. People looked at us in amazement: 'those crazy Americans pay to come here to clean streets.'"

Dalia Treiblich, the JNF *madricha* who herself radiates an old-time idealism, finds the enthusiastic retirees wonderful to work with. "They are revelling in their new experiences," she said, "for they can now do things that they could never allow themselves when they were tied to everyday work routines. At the same time they are appreciated and have come to appreciate Israel. It is particularly significant for them because they are doing it in Israel."

Much of the programme's success is due to the fine planning and

A living experience

By ROCHELLE FURSTENBERG/Special to the Jerusalem Post

concerned involvement of aliyah department staff, co-ordinator Naomi Stolper, her assistant Lonnie Aber, and the patience of the Netanya-based *madricha* Ilana Ostroff.

The programme is one of many creative innovations by the aliyah public relations office headed by Yossi Harel to give adults the kind of "living experience" in Israel which in the past was reserved for teenagers and college students.

"We hope to create an attitude in Jewish communities in the Diaspora which looks positively upon living in Israel," says Naomi Stolper, "and the best way to sell Israel is by giving people a taste of life here."

THIS WAS BORNE out by the ARI group — people who had always worked for Israel yet rarely had the opportunity to enjoy the quality of life that exists here. "People are so friendly here," members of the group were surprised to discover.

The positive approach of ARI brought positive responses from Israelis, because they were an impressive group of business, professional people who applied to their volunteer activity the competence and initiative that made them successful in their lives.

This was most evident in the work done for Morasha, a school for special education, which was in a state of disrepair.

Volunteers revolving around Sam Adlerstein, a retired architect from Maine, took it upon themselves to put the place into shape. To replace the broken windows, one volunteer, Al Robbins, who had owned an agricultural supplies business in the States, suggested an especially durable plastic used for greenhouses made by the Polygal Company at Kibbutz Ramat Hashofet.

"We went to the factory and solicited the plastic from them,"

said Adlerstein. "They were very generous and donated it all to the school. We then decided to pay the same honour to the Tambour Paint Co. and they too responded generously." The city of Netanya has also contributed supplies. He smiled with the aplomb of someone who knows how to get things done.

Then, proudly, he showed us the windows that had been replaced and the shutters rebuilt and repainted. Touring the grounds, he pointed to a soccer field. "This had once been a pile of garbage," he said. "And over there, where the children have planted vegetables, there was so much debris that it burnt for days."

Blonde, vivacious Billie Butman was planting flowers with children in front of the school and Helene Abkowitz, a retired home economics teacher, was showing a girl how to use a sewing machine. The carpentry teacher displaying some of the fine workmanship of the students, said: "The volunteers have been an example to the students, a model of hard work."

Seymour Greenstein, who had worked in guidance counselling in Cleveland, became particularly close with the students, in spite of his limited Hebrew. "I began cleaning the grounds," said the warm, soft-spoken Seymour. "The kids watched warily. Slowly they joined

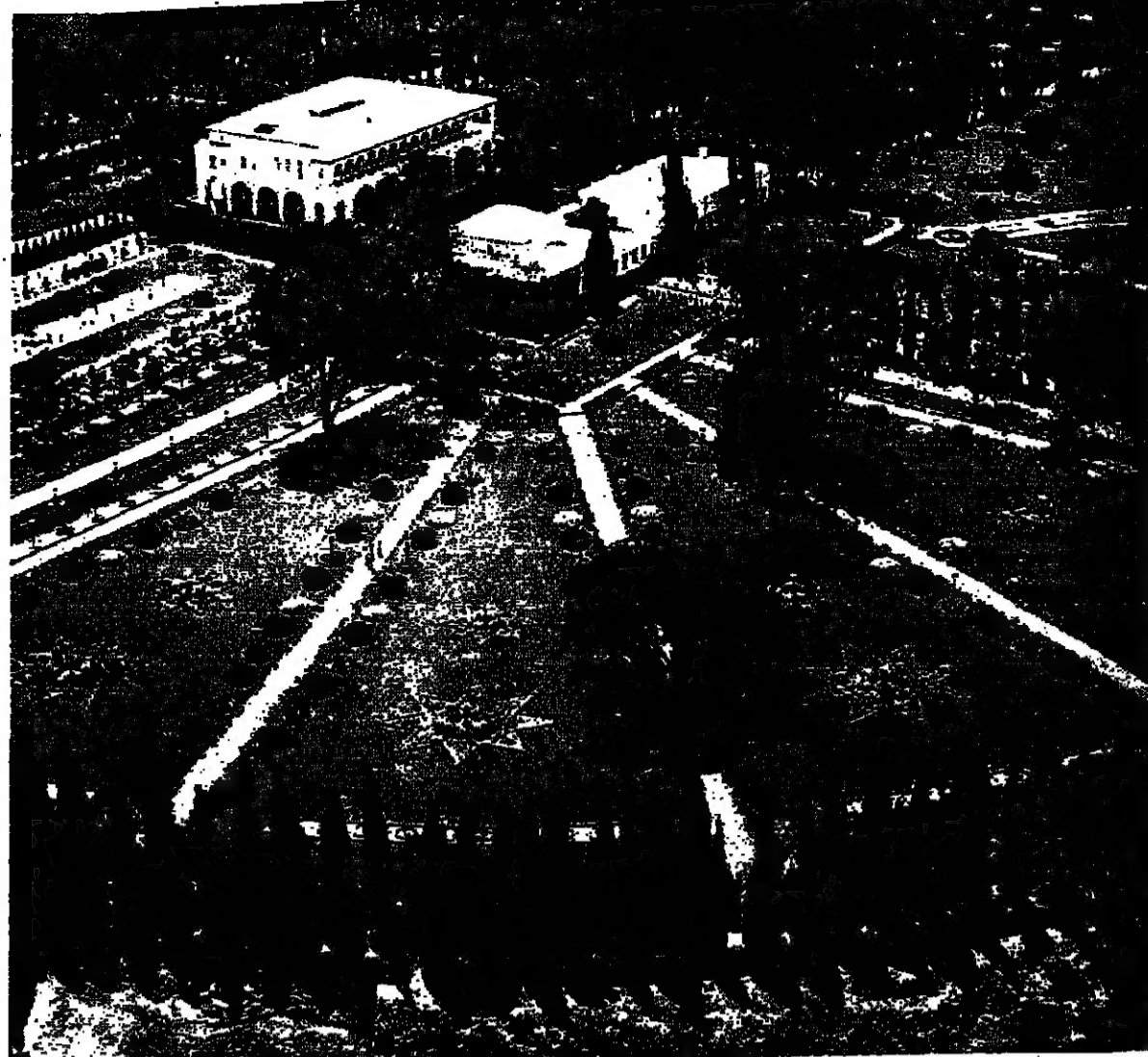
me. I told them: 'You're the teachers and I'm the student; you teach me Hebrew.' Something developed between us. And I began taking a few at a time, to work with us in the JNF Forest and then to eat with us at the hotel. It's been wonderful."

Seymour, who is on early retirement is now looking into aliyah, investigating job opportunities. "I have made so many friends here," he says. "People have been so wonderful."

Others also had particularly moving experiences. Louise Greenberg who ran a catering business for 20 years in Youngstown, Ohio, helped teach at a chefs' training course, demonstrating how to decorate food, giving tips on how to make dough lighter, marmalade finer, she demanded excellence, yet was warm-hearted. The students who were soon to go out to work in hotels expressed their appreciation in an outpouring of gifts.

The appreciation received by Ruth Hansel, the lively red-haired volunteer at the Malben old age home, was of a different sort. The geriatric patients grasped her hand. "She is a *gute*," one wheel-chaired woman said. "She makes us happy," said another.

Harry Kaplan, working at the Alyn workshop where severely disabled young adults pack caps, widen holes in bolts, paint with their teeth, learned a deep lesson about life from his work. "When I first came," he said, "I was crying all the time, as I saw the problems these young people have. I thought I was doing them a favour. But as I got to know them I noticed that they talk and laugh, they tease each other. They have their own life. How can they be in such good spirits? I asked myself. I came to the conclusion that they're not handicapped. They've come to terms with themselves. They're great people."



Aerial view of the Bahji mansion and gardens outside Acre

BAHA' HOLY DAY

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER/Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE MORE THAN two million members of the rapidly-growing Baha'i religion throughout the world are today marking the start of the 141st year of the faith. The so-called *New Ruz* occurs on the first day of the month of Baha (Splendour) and follows 19 days of fasting, from sunrise to sunset, throughout the preceding month, *Lofitess*.

The 200-plus Baha'is in Israel, who work voluntarily for the World Centre in Haifa, will gather for prayers and meditation at the Bahji (Delight) mansion outside Acre, where the founder of the faith, the Baha'u'llah (Glory of God), Mirza Husayn Ali, spent his last years in exile from his native Persia, which has a long record of persecuting the Baha'is.

The Bahji, where the Baha'u'llah is buried, is the Baha'is' holiest shrine.

It is set in spacious grounds, covering more than 250 dunams, over half of which have been transformed from an olive orchard into a magnificent garden, where carpet-like lawns are inlaid with beds of shrubs, flowers and cacti. Just off the busy highway between Acre and Nahariya, yet known by only a few, it is open to the public and is well worth a visit if only for its serenity.

The Baha'is will be looking back today in grief and sorrow on another year of persecution of their brethren in Iran, but also with great hope toward positive developments in other parts of the world.

THE EMPHASIS in the coming year will be on community development projects, especially among the more unfortunate populations of Africa, Asia and South America. Donald Barrett, of the World Centre told *The Jerusalem Post*. At present, the faith operates 150 elementary education groups in areas of want, for Baha'is and non-Baha'is children. Classes are held in the open air, in the homes of Baha'is, in local Baha'i centres or in simply constructed shelters.

Universal education is an important tenet of the faith prescribed by the Baha'u'llah, and the Baha'is also operate several regular schools with full-time staff with high academic standards. They are particularly proud that in India their schools are not only co-educational, as everywhere, but also bring together Brahmins and Untouchables.

In South America, thousands of native-born people, mainly Indians,

have become Baha'is and in the more rigorous terrain such as the mountainous region of Ecuador it is very difficult for children to get to school. Baha'i radio stations have therefore been established in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, which broadcast lessons and cultural programmes to the population in their own languages. A recent survey showed that more than 90 per cent of the listening audience in Ecuador tuned in to the Baha'i station most of the time, rather than to the other 25 stations in the region.

Because these stations steer absolutely clear of politics, in which no Baha'is engage, while providing an important service and preaching the Baha'is' tenets of peace, unity and love, they have been welcomed by the governments of the three countries.

To co-ordinate the community development services, a special section has been set up in the World Centre which provides aid and advice, but leaves complete autonomy to the local leadership.

DURING THE PAST year, the Seat of the Universal House of Justice, a majestic, marble-clad building in the classical Greek style, was completed on Mt. Carmel after five years of work. Last April, 650 Baha'i representatives from 119 countries gathered in Haifa for the fifth international convention. They elected the nine members of the House of Justice who, for the coming five years, would co-ordinate and direct the spiritual and administrative affairs of the international community. This highest institution of the faith acts as custodian and trustee of the Baha'is' holy places and endowments in the Holy Land and legislates matters not specifically revealed by Baha'u'llah, to meet the needs of an ever-evolving world community.

Some 2,500 Baha'i pilgrims come to Israel every year, and last year a new shrine was added to their route. This is the House of Abdullah Pasha who was Ottoman governor of Acre from 1820 to 1832 and built it as his official residence. Its importance in Baha'i history lies in the fact that Abdull Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah and his successor as head of the faith, was confined there from 1897 to 1908 as part of the Turkish government's restrictions on the Faith. He received the first Baha'i pilgrims from Europe and America there in the winter of 1898-99, and wrote one of

his most important books there. His grandson, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, guardian and head of the faith from 1921 until his death in 1957, was born in the house.

The World Centre acquired the house in 1974. Reconstruction work is still in progress and there are also plans for the restoration of an adjacent area, formerly occupied by a government clinic.

In Haifa, the gardens are being completed around the Seat of the Universal House of Justice, including a dramatic hanging garden, over 30m. high. A town-planning scheme for further development of the Baha'is' properties in the city, including the landscaping from the Seat all the way up to Panorama Road has been submitted to the municipality.

In the coming year, two new houses of worship will be dedicated: in Samoa, in the South Pacific, and in New Delhi, where the building was designed in the form of a double lotus. Like all Baha'i buildings, they were financed by contributions from members of the faith, which accepts no outside financial help.

Pride in these achievements must be shadowed by the plight of more than 300,000 of their co-religionists in Iran. Under the rule of the mullahs they have been victims of persecution, hangings, murders and looting; but a final blow was struck last August when their spiritual assemblies throughout the country were outlawed.

Immediately after the attorney-general issued the decree, the Baha'is' national assembly and over 400 local committees of nine members each, disbanded. Nevertheless, arrests of these members were stepped up and today over 700 men, women and children are languishing in prison with no charges being proffered. If they are the victims they will be unable to engage counsel and cannot expect a fair trial. Their property has been confiscated. The mullahs' fury has not stopped short of Baha'i cemeteries, which have been desecrated and the marble of the monuments offered for sale.

On one of the walls of the mansion at Bahji there is a framed saying of Abdull Baha which has great poignancy in light of the situation in Iran: "Religion must be the cause of unity, harmony and agreement among mankind. If it be the cause of discord and hostility, if it leads to separation and creates conflict, the absence of religion would be preferable in the world."

Neve Zohar's trials

NEGEV NOTEBOOK/Liora Moriel

NEVE ZOHAR is a name without definition. It contains the offices of the Tamar Regional Council, along with services like fire and ambulance. It has a lot of crumbling buildings like the old-Shefeh Zohar restaurant-hotel, now the focus of a dispute between the council and the inheritors. And there's a verdant, unusual-looking new housing complex where 100 people live.

Is it a moshav, a kibbutz, a village or just simply a settlement? Strange enough, it is none of these. It has no official status at all.

Because it is far from Beersheba, where the officials of sundry government departments sit, it was possible for the head of the council, Moshe Shamir, to convince them that Neve Zohar is a run-down anomaly with a handful of families who would be more than glad to leave, Asaf Avizohar, 38, a spokesman for the place, told me.

Shamir, a member of Kibbutz Ein Gedi, has made no secret of the fact that he wants to turn Neve Zohar into a kibbutz. Despite the fact that the Knesset Finance Committee earlier this year decided that it should be made an urban centre, he has lobbied extensively to overturn the decision.

Avizohar alleges: "For five years he has practised a policy of oppression towards Neve Zohar, especially over drinking water."

Like all the Arava, Neve Zohar does not have drinking water in its taps. The water is saline and, some say, dangerous. "Shamir wanted to pressure us to quit, using this problem as a lever. These pressures and harassments, day in and day out, create an unbearable squeeze."

At one point, knowing he was going abroad, Shamir closed off the water supply leaving no potable water in the tanks, claims Avizohar. For a while, the residents carried water in jerrycans from a nearby army base or even from Arad, a half hour's drive away.

FINALLY, some weeks ago, a middle-aged grandmother, Sara Atlas, decided to go on a hunger strike until the matter of Neve Zohar is settled. She placed herself near the council's building and made her point visibly.

At the end of her first day of the strike ("she is strong-willed and will probably last two months!" her friends told me) she was joined by many families and they all went to the nearby Lot Hotel, where the Knesset Finance Committee and Tourism Minister Avraham Shafir were staying.

Next morning, Atlas jumped on the committee's mini-bus and took them on a guided tour of the place and its problems.

So the day before he flew off, Shamir made sure there would be drinking water in Neve Zohar until his return.

But the battle is not over. Avizohar says that the Tamar Regional Council does not give Neve Zohar even an observer status in its meetings, even when the place is directly discussed. The council has two representatives from Kibbutz Ein Gedi (one of them is the head of the council, always), two from the Dead Sea works, and one each from three moshavim: Neot Hakikar, Ein Tamar and the tiny Ein Hatzeva.

"There are really only three settlements here and yet we have no representative," Avizohar says. "Recently, another council was established for the four new settlements beyond the green line, Kalif,

Mitze Shalem, Almog and Vered Jericho, but this is a fiction."

Neve Zohar does not exist officially. The residents can only live as Amidar tenants, paying rent. They have no permanent status.

Yitzhak Shitrit, the district planning engineer, admitted that the regional planning committee was duped into believing that the place was populated with just a handful of people.

MISUNDERSTANDING was coupled with error: although the committee's master plan called for Neve Zohar to become either a settlement or a kibbutz or a moshav, the actual blueprint only mentions the kibbutz alternative.

"There was a mistake and only kibbutz was mentioned," said Shitrit, "but as far as we are concerned this is irrelevant. The settling agencies will decide. At any rate, we did not know that there were people in the place who had other ideas."

They have indeed. They want Neve Zohar to be the Dead Sea's urban backbone. And recent events have highlighted the timely necessity for this.

There are four ambulances scattered in the area, one of them in Neve Zohar. There is only one part-time fireman, also in Neve Zohar. If the Moriah Dead Sea Hotel tragedy on February 5 had blazed on one of the fireman's evenings off, the damage, terrible as it was, would have been much worse.

The council does not encourage people to settle in Neve Zohar, Avizohar says. The fireman is one of those who wants to live there permanently, but meanwhile he lives in Arad.

The Tiomkin Committee's report on the fire specifically states that the area must have a fire station with round-the-clock firefighters. Clearly, today, this is not possible even beyond the economic considerations.

"I'M CONVINCED that this is a national crime," says Avizohar, a farmer who leases land from the Lands Administration for winter crops. "There should be an urban centre here for the entire region, just like the Knesset committee advised."

This is also the Tourism Ministry's official position. But the Tamar council wants a kibbutz there instead.

Neve Zohar residents complain that the council is a law unto itself. They tell of expenditure "bordering on corruption": council buses taking Ein Gedi kibbutzniks to swimming pools in Jerusalem, to shows and shopping, while there are no buses for their own children; of a lavish community centre which only serves Kibbutz Ein Gedi, and more.

In July 1983, Avizohar says, the United Kibbutz Movement actually set up a *garden* to settle the place.

When Moshe Shamir returns to the Arava, he will find Neve Zohar much less pliable, much more militant. Avizohar has contacted a lawyer to settle the issues, and is also pressuring the State Comptroller for action.

Yeshayahu Barzel, the southern district commissioner, is also abroad. When he returns, it will only be to pack his family and belongings and fly to New York for his next posting.

Eldad Gissin, southern district director of the Jewish Agency, told me that he is not involved in the matter.

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Above, left, a scene from "Gustav III - Farewell to a Player King." Above right, Anna Magnani and Marlon Brando in a film clip from the documentary on Magnani's life. At right, a bearded Donald Sutherland, who will be one of the feature players in a production of Jules Feiffer's "Little Murders."

Spring on the screen

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH/Jerusalem Post Reporter

DESPITE its good intentions, Israel TV is likely to displease many viewers when it broadcasts two weeks of first-quality programmes of music, drama, dance, documentary and cinema for its Spring Festival next month.

Culture vultures who crave that sort of entertainment will want to know why the Broadcasting Authority never tried to screen such an international collection of shows before. And those who look forward all week to the next episode of *Dallas* will grumble about the time devoted to a Swedish drama about the last days of King Gustav III and a French documentary about the singer Edith Piaf.

TV director Tuviya Sa'ar is proud of the initiative by Elon Goitein and his drama department, which selected the offerings. If the festival is a hit with viewers, it will become an annual event. As for those who prefer American thrillers and comedies, Sa'ar notes that there will still be enough of these during the festival to keep their sets switched on.

The first programme in the festival is *Gustav III - Farewell to a Player King*, a mixture of drama, ballet and music that won the 1983 Italia Prize. Scheduled for screening on Sunday, April 1, it is a fantasy about the last day of the 18th-century Swedish monarch who was assassinated on the stage during an opera performance. Directed by Inger Abye, the cast includes Sven Lindberg, Heinz Hopf, Johan Neumann and Marcus Wassberg.

Hayloft in Manhattan, to be aired on Monday, April 2 is one of the

three Israeli-made offerings in the festival. Directed by Emek Perry, and taking place in New York City and Kibbutz Beit Alfa in the mid-fifties, it is the story of the relationship between Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer and his Israeli son, Yisrael Zamir. As a 25-year-old kibbutznik in 1956, Zamir travels to New York to meet his father for the first time since he was a child. The two had not seen each other for 20 years, partly because of difficult world conditions and partly because of hostility between Zamir's unmarried parents. Father and son confess their innermost fears to each other, and the son is inspired to try his hand at writing.

Tuesday's offering is the story of *chanteuse* Edith Piaf, born in Paris in 1915 under a street lamp to a mother who was an Italian street singer and a father who was an acrobat. Piaf, who grew up in the home of her grandmother in Normandy, also began her career as a street singer. She was "discovered" at the age of 15 by a cabaret owner who heard her sing "Like a Free Bird." During her long career, she herself discovered other talents, including Yves Montand and Charles Aznavour.

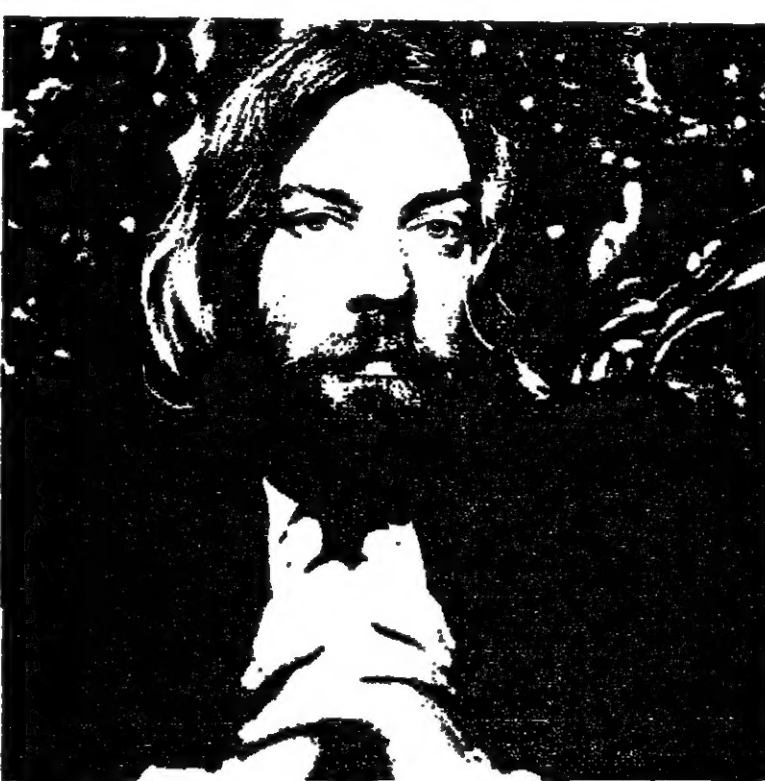
Fellini's film, *Prova D'Orchestra*, will be screened on Wednesday, April 4. Made for Italian TV, it is half grotesque fantasy, half documentary, dealing with Italy and with human society in general. The scene is a 13th-century church, where members of a symphony orchestra gather for a rehearsal. A TV team arrive to make a documentary about the musicians,

and the unseen interviewer is Fellini himself. The story develops into a political allegory in the form of two vying camps of orchestra members.

Puccini's last opera *Turandot*, which was not quite completed when he died in 1924, will be broadcast in two parts on Thursday, April 5 and on Saturday night, April 7. The opera is set in ancient Peking, whose Princess Turandot, vows to take revenge for the murder of one of her ancestors and decides that she will marry only the man who manages to solve three riddles. The performance, by the Vienna Children's Choir and the Vienna Opera conducted by Lorin Maazel, was filmed in the Vienna Opera House last year.

A documentary marking the 10th anniversary of the death of Italian actress Anna Magnani will be presented on Sunday, April 8. It is composed of clips of some of her films, as well as recollections by actors and friends. Among those appearing in the film are Vittorio De Sica, Roberto Rossellini, Fellini and Marcello Mastroianni.

Canada is represented in the festival by *Special Bulletin*, a drama about a TV station's coverage of opposition to nuclear weapons by the residents of Charleston, South Carolina. The radical group demand a live appearance on TV, threatening to set off a homemade atom bomb if they don't get what they want. Commandos are sent to the terrorists' boat in order to take control, and the bomb is exploded, completely destroying the area. Three days later, the TV station gives a matter-of-fact account of the



events, sandwiched between other news items.

Charlie Chaplin is highlighted in a British documentary called *Unknown Chaplin*, to be broadcast on April 10. Thames Television discovered films never before shown, and presents a side of the comedian-artist not known until now. Chaplin made the unknown films for his own pleasure, and actors and technicians who worked with him were interviewed for the show. Since some of the films were made as long as 70 years ago, the producers call their documentary the first example of "cinematic archeology."

Jules Feiffer's film *Little Murders* will be aired on Wednesday, April 11. It is a satire dealing with violence in contemporary American society.

with murders accepted as a day-to-day occurrence. Starring are Elliott Gould, Donald Sutherland, Lou Jacobi and Alan Arkin.

The second Israeli offering is the story of the Acre arts festival and the Jerusalem theatre company that took first prize. A TV team followed the company during rehearsals; it will be broadcast on April 12.

The final broadcast of the festival, produced in Israel, is Johannes Brahms' *German Requiem*, performed during Liturgical Week by the Jerusalem Symphony-Israel Broadcasting Authority Orchestra and conducted by Gary Bertini. Performed in public for the first time in 1868 under the baton of the 35-year-old composer, it made him famous.

Once in a while performance

MUSIC

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Zubin Mehta conducting, Milka Laks, pianist. (Mazz Auditorium, Tel Aviv, March 14 and 15) Wohl: Festival Overture (March 14); Jacoby: Partita Concertata (March 15); Mendelssohn: Oboe Concerto; Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D major.

THE FASCINATING thing about a music performance is its inherent unpredictability. Objective aspects do exist, of course — the artists' calibre, the accessibility of the score, the amount of rehearsing and so on. Yet once on a long while, a performance transcends these considerations, and touches a spiritual undercurrent so intense that it seems to liberate the music from its material frame and offer a glimpse of the very idea that had inspired the composer's act. Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic attained this in the Mahler's First Symphony.

How surprised the audience must have been, as the work was practically unannounced. Perhaps the most often-played piece of music here, it substituted for the Brahms violin concerto. The scheduled soloist, Shlomo Mintz, was busy welcoming his newborn son to the world.

By now the IPO musicians must be able to play the Mahler backwards, and their knowledge of Mehta's interpretive ideas can hardly be matched. There was, however, not a trace of matter-of-factness, as they responded to the conductor with unity, flexibility and polish.

From the very first notes, Mehta uncovered a breathtaking expanse of sound in which phrases were molded with electrifying sensitivity, as if for the first time ever. His tempi were not merely right — they seemed the only possible ones. The magnificent displays of sound colour, the alternating episodes of haunting sweetness and shattering outbursts, the thematic transitions of organic unity — all merged, embracing the metaphysical grandeur of the Mahlerian universe.

OLIVIER MESSIAEN'S *Oiseaux exotiques*, given its IPO premiere, is a striking work, too, albeit in a different way. A compositional tour de force it utilizes means of staggering rhythmic and colouristic complexity to recreate nature's most spontaneous and uninhibited music — the birdsong. The aesthetics and philosophy of Messiaen's exploit and the poetic meaning the birds have in his world are captivating subjects in contemporary artistic thought. In purely musical terms, *Oiseaux exotiques* impresses as a colourful and non-conformist piece, using the piano in a percussive capacity exclusively. Milka Laks, the piano soloist, the wind players and the percussionists made a resourceful, well-coordinated team.

The Israeli offerings were by Hanoch Jacoby and Yehuda Wihl, in honour of their respective 75th and 80th birthdays. Both composers were present and took bows. Jacoby's *Partita Concertata*, written in 1971, follows the *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* by Britten, featuring individual orchestral instruments in their collective environment. A work of considerable gracefulness and textural transparency, its formal logic and polyphonic language bespeak a firm and knowledgeable hand. Its inner discipline and meaningful understatement add to its appeal.

The world premiere of the *Festival Overture* by Wohl revealed it to be a fragmentary work, with cluster-like sonorities and short motivic patterns never blending into a whole.

ELI KAREV

ISRAEL SINFONIETTA, Beatebe, Mend Rodan conducting; with Shella Armstrong, soprano (Jerusalem Theatre, March 17). Handel: Royal Fireworks Music; Britten: Les Illuminations; Mozart: *Bella mia flamma*; Gluck: *Variazioni Concertistiche* for Chamber Orchestra.

THE ISRAEL SINFONIETTA goes from strength to strength, and I pity every sincere music lover who missed this programme. To achieve high standards is within the reach of everyone; to maintain and even surpass them is only the result of tenacious work, full cooperation between conductor and musicians and an atmosphere of mutual desire to please themselves, each other and the public. Mend Rodan has done it again, and this is one of those few occasions when the critic can register his unalloyed pleasure and appreciation.

The programme was well-balanced, slightly favouring the 20th century. Handel's "Fireworks," though beautifully played, is too often performed to arouse curiosity, and the Mozart aria is without any special features; on the other hand, Britten and Ginastera belong to those composers who prove that even in the 20th century interesting, stimulating, and original music can be written without resorting to gimmicks and extra-musical noises.

Shella Armstrong is a fine artist who rendered *Les Illuminations* superbly interpreting the rather obscure words by Rimbaud with superb countenance and complete identification. Rodan and the orchestra collaborated with fervour and lively participation. The Mozart aria gave the singer the opportunity to excel in sweet phrases and melodious singing, which had the audience clamouring for more. *Poi che sapete* — Cherubini's Canzone from *Il Nozze di Figaro* — was generously added as the encore.

Ginastera, the outstanding Argentinian composer, unfortunately is not alive anymore (as the programme booklet had it), he died last June. The "Variation" of individual musician's artistry, as such variation features a different instrument or chamber orchestra group until, in the final variations, the whole orchestra concertizes together. Excellent craftsmanship was demonstrated by each of the soloists, and the entire performance, under Rodan's inspiring leadership, presented such scintillating ensemble playing that I have run out of superlatives. Bravo!

YOHANAN BOEHM

Decision on adoption

LAW REPORT/Asher Felix Landau

IN THE SUPREME COURT sitting as a Court of Civil Appeals. Before the President, Justice Meir Shamgar, Justice Menahem Elon and Justice Moshe Beisky. In the matter of the Attorney-General, appellant versus A. and B., respondents (C.A. 518/83).

UNDER SECTION 13 of the Adoption of Children Law of 1981 a court may, in the absence of a parent's consent, declare a child adoptable if, *inter alia*, "the parent has abandoned the child or has, without reasonable cause, refrained from maintaining personal contact with him for six consecutive months"; or "the parent is due to his conduct or situation, incapable of taking proper care of the child, and there is no prospect of a change in his conduct or situation within the foreseeable future even with the usual professional and economic assistance of the welfare authorities."

The respondents' daughter was born in August 1981 and had not lived in her parents' home, save during short intervals, since the age of four months. At that time she was taken by her parents to hospital to be treated for vomiting, diarrhea and loss of weight, but was found to have bruises on her body and, on another occasion, to have a fractured foot.

The doctors were of the opinion that she was a "battered child," and

that the bruises and fracture had been caused by one or both of her parents. In the light of the above facts the Attorney-General applied to the District Court to declare the child adoptable. The application, however, was refused, and the Attorney-General appealed to the Supreme Court.

THE JUDGMENT of the Supreme Court was given by Justice Meir Shamgar. The District Court, he said, had described at length the ceaseless and praiseworthy efforts of the welfare and health authorities to improve the parents' situation, even to the extent of securing them a suitable apartment instead of the small, damp room they had previously occupied. Special steps had also been taken to guide the mother in the treatment of her daughter. In the meantime, a son had been born to the family, in regard to whom no problems had arisen.

The judge, Justice Shamgar continued, had carefully analysed all the evidence and arguments supporting the view that the parents

had ill-treated their daughter and that she should therefore be removed from their care. It had also been suggested that the parents could develop different attitudes towards their children, treating one child without sympathy and even with animosity, and the other in a diametrically opposite manner.

The District Court, the president said, had rejected the thesis that the mother lacked all feeling towards her daughter. On many days she had slept under her daughter's bed in hospital, and both parents had taken every opportunity of seeing the child after she had been removed to a children's home and, thereafter, to a foster family. They had appeared at every interview to which they had been summoned. For a very long period, therefore, that court held, not only had they not given the slightest hint of an intention to abandon their daughter, but had rigidly maintained their connection with her and demonstrated their willingness and readiness to fulfil their parental duties.

The District Court, while praising

the efforts of the welfare authorities, had expressed its fear that the mother's aggressiveness had introduced an emotional element into their attitude, which had affected their objectivity. It must be remembered, it held, that the question was not whether the authorities or the parents were in the right, but what was in the best interests of the child. It was desirable, therefore, that different personnel and institutions should continue to deal with the case.

The judge had also said that he realized that it might still emerge that the child was not receiving adequate care from her parents, but the evidence at present available did not justify her adoption.

COUNSEL for the State, Justice Shamgar continued, had urged the acceptance of the opinions of the welfare authorities. He had emphasized the violence of the parents towards their child, and had submitted that this pattern could not be remedied. A case of this kind, the president said, demanded the most careful consideration.

Firstly, an appeal court was reluc-

tant to interfere with the actual findings of the court which had heard the witnesses and was able to form an impression of their credibility. Secondly, this case dealt with the possibility of severing all connection between a child and its parents, not because the parents had abandoned the child or stopped all association with it, but against a background of a continuing relationship between them.

The court was not convinced, Justice Shamgar said, that all the incidents of injury to the child by her parents proved an angry and violent attitude towards her. It was also possible that their previous living conditions and inexperience had prompted them to act as they did involuntarily. It was also possible, of course, that in one or two cases they had wished to hurt the child. If, however, these were isolated incidents which did not indicate a general and continuing attitude, they were not sufficient to justify the extreme and far-reaching step of deliberately separating the child from her parents.

Even if there is room to criticize a parent who forgets himself and injures his child, that does not necessarily justify taking the child away from him and handing it to someone else to adopt and bring up as his own. Only if there is a real danger that the conduct complained of will be repeated and constitute a risk to the child's health and welfare will the result requested by the State be justified.

The conclusions of the District Court were cautious, and did not exclude continued supervision, education and treatment by the authorities under the Youth (Care and Supervision) Law of 1960. The District Court had only said that it could not hold at this stage that there was no longer any hope of a natural and accepted relationship between the child and its parents, and that the child could therefore not be declared adoptable.

It was proper in the circumstances to enable the parents to prove that they do not intend to harm their daughter and become estranged from her, and that their violence towards her was not deliberate but only a passing phase.

For the above reasons the appeal was dismissed.

Dr. Yosef Ben-Or, Senior assistant-state attorney, appeared for the Attorney-General, and Advocate Esther El-Ron for the respondents. Judgment was delivered on March 1, 1984.

UK pilots boycott int'l meeting here

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — The problems facing women pilots who want to raise a family and continue to work will be one of the subjects discussed at the 29th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations, which opens here today.

This was stated yesterday by Captain Robert Tweedy (Aer Lingus), president of the federation, which he stressed is a "non-political body." For that reason he refused to say why the British pilots were not attending, other than to quote their statement that "they don't want to be represented."

However, some 40 other associations are sending a total of 200 delegates. This is the usual attendance for an annual conference. Tweedy said he did not know if pilots from the East Bloc would at-

tend. Captain C. Lagarhas (SAS), a vice-president, noted that "pregnancy could be a safety problem, not only for the prospective mother, but also for the unborn baby." However, since there were only 500 women pilots (out of a total federation membership of 61,000) the effect of flying on both had not been thoroughly studied. But it was assuming greater importance since there was a steady increase in women pilots.

Laurie Taylor, executive secretary of the federation, noted that some women have been piloting commercial planes for 20 years or more, "and it is not unusual for both the first pilot and the copilot to be women."

But the main topic to be discussed is the Korean Airline incident (the Russians blew the South Korean plane out of the air last

September at a cost of 269 lives). At first the federation banned all flights by its members to Russia, but after three weeks lifted the ban, when the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) began to handle the matter. The ICAO will hold a special meeting on the subject this April.

"Our stand has always been that fire should never be opened on a civilian plane, no matter how far it strays from its course," Captain Tweedy said.

Another subject to be discussed is safety regulations for twin-engine planes. Present regulations say that they should never be more than 90 minutes flying time from a "suitable" airport, to prevent a disaster if one engine cools out. The pilots want the time reduced to 60 minutes.

The pilots will also discuss the possible detrimental effects of the

open-skies policies adopted in some states. This policy allows greater competition by the deregulation of air routes.

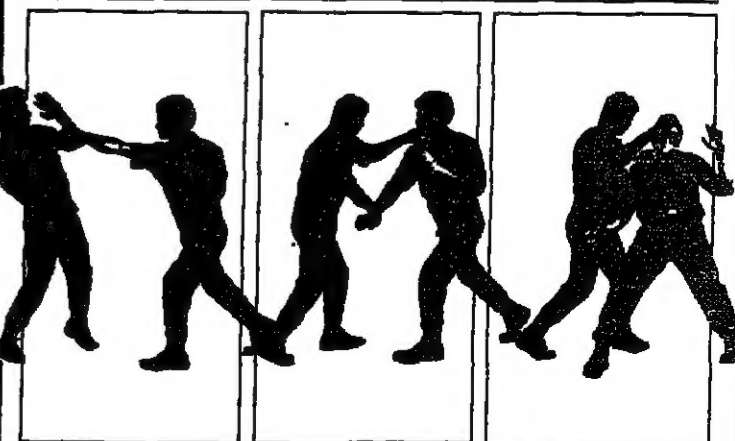
"This will certainly lead to lower fares, but we fear that it will also cause some companies, who cut fares to get passengers, to begin cutting back on safety, such as adequate training programmes and air-plane maintenance," Tweedy said.

Another subject on the agenda is the problem of cabin furnishings made out of inflammable materials. Not that the materials burst easily into flames, but when they begin to burn, they often produce poisonous gases which knock passengers out.

Captain Yitzhak Gonen (El Al) said he would also bring up the fact that some pilots have to be on duty in a plane for 16 continuous hours. This length of time dulled their perceptions, he said, since they could not rest adequately while aloft.

FIGHTING FIT

by Col. David Ben-Asher
translated by Miriam Schlesinger



Because the "typical" Israeli soldier can be anyone from an eighteen-year-old student to a sedentary executive of fifty, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) created a program of physical fitness and self-defense suitable for everyone. FIGHTING FIT is based on the IDF's official manual. It is an instruction guide to fitness and self-defense, for men and women, complete with illustrations and photographs. FIGHTING FIT was written by the former head of combat fitness in the IDF. Published by Perigee Books, 220 pages, softcover.

PRICE: IS 1393

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Price valid until March 31, 1984.

No holding back the boom

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

bond market turned in a positive session, with prices moving up by as much as 3 per cent, in some instances. Trading was very sedate and turnovers were under the IS465 million level.

In a rather surprising development the shekel was valued by 18 agorot against the dollar.

Bank shares part of the "agreement" were ahead by as much as 10 per cent, as was the case with the Discount B shares. However, other part of this group were held to gains of up to 6.9 per cent.

The bank shares and bankholding companies not part of the "agreement" had a super session. The Maritima Bank 0.5 shares were 26.4 per cent higher. The 0.1 shares were more restrained and only zipped ahead by 10 per cent. Danot 5 also chipped in with a 10 per cent advance. Fibi and First International could not be traded and were fixed as "buyers only."

Gains of up to 10 per cent were scattered throughout the mortgage bank sector. The action was pretty much repeated in the specialized financial group of share trading.

There was plenty of sparkle in the insurance sector. Ararat 0.1 and Yardenia 0.1 were both up by nearly 30 per cent. The Ararat 0.5 shares were "buyers only" and it looks as if they are prepared to match the 30 per cent gain chalked up by the 0.1 shares.

The service and trade group had its share of high swingers. Crystal 1 was ahead by more than 22 per cent. Yehalom Hotels carved out a 38.5 per cent advance.

Computer shares were up by up to 10 per cent. Amnion, in the land development, real estate and citrus plantation group, scored the

largest advance of the session, as its shares soared by no less than 47.9 per cent. Ten per cent gains appeared to be the order of the day, while the options attached to the shares performed in an even more inspired fashion.

There was plenty of upside volatility in the industrial group. Alaska-Sportline 1 was 20 per cent higher. Nechushtan 0.5 was an even better feature, as it jumped 26.6 per cent. Electra 0.1 was just shy of a 30 per cent rise.

Arif with a 10 per cent gain led the high-technology issues to higher levels. Elbit rose by 4.5 per cent, while Elron edged 3.8 per cent higher.

Many of the issues in the industrial sector could not be traded due to the imbalance of buying orders. They were accordingly listed as "buyers only." Clal Industries was very much a case in point, as a 151,000 demand resulted in the shares being established as "buyers only."

There was no shortage of excitement in the investment company group. The Israel Corporation 5 shares sprinted ahead by 25.7 per cent. Pama 0.1 was up 15 per cent, while Piryon was declared "buyers only."

There was no holding back the oil shares. Teiroil 5 was 45.3 per cent higher. J.O.E.L. was 29.4 per cent better. North America Oil 1 shares were up 21.6 per cent.

Most active stocks

Hapolim	3950	93,338.5m.	+340
IDB	5560	54,371.7m.	+250
Discount A	7335	51,975.8m.	+250
Shares traded:		15,988.1m.	
Convertible:		15,938.9m.	
Bonds		15,463.4m.	

LONDON BANK RATES

	March 20, 1984	Prev. Close
Bank base rate	8 1/2 %	8 1/2 %
Call money	8 1/2 %	8 1/2 %
91-day Treasury	8 1/2 %	8 1/2 %
3-months Interbank	8 1/2 %	8 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank		

Prices hit new record on London exchange

LONDON (AP). — Bargain-hunters invaded the London Stock Exchange yesterday, and prices powered ahead to record highs.

After Monday's 11-point fall in the Financial Times Index of Leading Industrials, the market opened strongly, with prices jumping in what dealers termed a "technical reaction" to the Monday losses.

The rally gained momentum following Wall Street's strong opening and after a series of good company profit reports. Trading was moderate, dealers said.

Most sectors were higher. Particularly big gains were registered by properties and life insurance stocks, electricals, engineering contractors, health and household products, tobacco, shipping and transport, chemicals, banks and oils. Newspaper stocks showed a small loss.

The Financial Times index of 30 industrials closed 897.6, up 14.5.

Commercial Banks

(not part of "arrangement")	Price	Volume	Change	%
OHK	3035	37	+185	+10.0
Maritima 0.1	384	25	+30	+7.8
Maritima 0.5	335	184	+70	+20.6
N. American 1	5970	22	n.c.	n.c.
N. American 5	4990	171	+200	+4.2
Danot 1	2761	308	+146	+5.7
Danot 5	660	30	+55	+8.1
Danot 10	132	263	+12	+9.0
First Int'l 0.5	513	b.o.l.	+24	+4.9
FIBI 0.5	384	b.o.l.	+16	+4.9

Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")

	Price	Volume	Change	%
IDB	5560	977	n.c.	n.c.
IDB B	6950	—	+550	+10.0
IDB P.A.	3500	3	+200	+6.0
IDB op 11	—	—	—	—
Unim 0.1	4380	804	+250	+5.1
Discount B	7510	51	+660	+9.6
Discount A	7335	708	+250	+3.5
Discount B m	—	—	—	—
Morah 1	2420	122	+130	+5.7
Morah 5	2425	164	+160	+7.1
Morah op 11	4155	128	+150	+3.8
Morah op 12	1695	184	+60	+3.7
Morah op 9	1960	—	+700	+17.7
Hapolim p	1034	141	n.c.	n.c.
Hapolim m	472	—	+20	+4.2
Hapolim h	350	2363	+240	+5.0
Hapolim h 8	3855	160	+250	+6.9
General 0.1	14300	10	+700	+5.2
General 0.5	23010	10	n.c.	n.c.
General 0.1	9410	22	+130	+1.3
General 0.5	7540	—	+200	+2.7
General 0.1	495	83	+10	+2.0
General 0.5	250	184	+100	+4.0
Leumi 0.1	3310	10	+60	+1.9
Leumi 0.5	419	423	n.c.	n.c.
Finance Trade	3180	5	n.c.	n.c.
Finance Trade	1832	b.o.l.	+80	+4.3
Finance Trade	3380	—	+103	+3.1

Real Estate, Building

	Price	Volume	Change	%
Oron	320	252	+29	+10.0
Oron Prop.	292	365	n.c.	n.c.
Oron op E	27	766	n.c.	n.c.
Oron op	91	1066	+8	+10.1
Oron op	69	526	+4	+6.1
Oron op	195	537	+26	+15.2
Oron op	214	370	+18	+15.0
Oron op	230	306	+8	+4.9
Oron op	126	174	+16	+13.9
Oron op	2381	b.o.l.	+113	+5.0
Oron op	2161	b.o.l.	+103	+5.0
Oron op	192	91	+18	+10.6
Oron op	173	70	n.c.	n.c.
Oron op	178	91	+66	+10.0
Oron op	235	b.o.l.	+11	+4.9
Oron op	222	b.o.l.	+36	+16.7
Oron op	192	665	+16	+9.1
Oron op	146	1615	+13	+10.2
Oron op	113	472	n.c.	n.c.
Oron op	214	1734	+21	+10.1
Oron op	266	807	+26	+10.0
Oron op	127	1136	+3	+4.5
Oron op	126	195	n.c.	n.c.

Financial Institutions

	Price	Volume	Change	%
Shilon	220	b.o.l.	+10	+4.8
Shilon B	1832	b.o.l.	+122	+7.1
Shilon B	14000	—	—	—
Shilon B	14340	—	+300	+1.5
Shilon B	1320	b.o.l.	+63	+5.0
Shilon B	1365	81	+124	+10.0
Shilon B	1400	1	+80	+9.9
Shilon B	1400	—	+150	+10.7
Shilon B	1485	471	+135	+10.0
Shilon B	581	14	+7	+2.9
Shilon B	290	167	+17	+6.2
Shilon B	300	1007	+22	+7.4
Shilon B	295	136	+15	+5.6
Shilon B	357	20	+10	+2.8
Shilon B	367	b.o.l.	+17	+4.9
Shilon B	220	b.o.l.	+10	+4.8
Shilon B	1832	b.o.l.	+122	+7.1
Shilon B	14000	—	—	—
Shilon B	14340	—	+300	+1.5
Shilon B	1320	b.o.l.	+63	+5.0
Shilon B	1365	81	+124	+10.0
Shilon B	1400	1	+80	+9.9
Shilon B	1400	—	+150	+10.7
Shilon B	1485	471	+135	+10.0
Shilon B	581	14	+7	+2.9
Shilon B	290	167	+17	+6.2
Shilon B	300	1007	+22	+7.4
Shilon B	295	136	+15	+5.6
Shilon B	357	20	+10	+2.8
Shilon B	367	b.o.l.	+17	+4.9

Insurance

	Price	Volume	Change	%
Arish	801	b.o.l.	+38	+5.0
Arish op	541	458	+99	+22.4
Arish op	1080	65	+227	+20.9
Arish op	358	b.o.l.	+17	+5.0
Arish op	1150	—	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	309	446	+28	+10.0
Arish op	420	b.o.l.	+30	+5.0
Arish op	399	56	+10	+2.5
Arish op	541	b.o.l.	+26	+5.1
Arish op	1540	52	+123	+8.7
Arish op	467	b.o.l.	+22	+4.9
Arish op	600	31	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	963	13	+107	+11.2
Arish op	765	50	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	469	124	+107	+29.6
Arish op	188	174	+14	+8.0
Arish op	136	b.o.l.	+8	+6.6
Arish op	350	—	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	1450	2	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	267	b.o.l.	+13	+5.1
Arish op	780	67	n.c.	n.c.
Arish op	556	11	+51	+10.1
Arish op	290	283	n.c.	n.c.

Trade & Services

	Price	Volume	Change	%
Merr Ezra	455	456	+39	+9.4
Merr Ezra	299	74	n.c.	n.c.
Merr Ezra	301	505	+27	+9.9
Merr Ezra	179	287	+16	+10.1
Merr Ezra	85	1339	+16	+24.1
Merr Ezra	535	1434	+40	+10.1
Merr Ezra	878	55	+80	+10.0
Merr Ezra	218	387	+39	+22.7
Merr Ezra	1360	9	+110	+8.9
Merr Ezra	305	164	+25	+8.9
Merr Ezra	1104	121	+164	+10.0
Merr Ezra	805	b.o.l.	+38	+5.0
Merr Ezra	500	162	+66	+15.2
Merr Ezra	2100	b.o.l.	+100	+5.0
Merr Ezra	780	26	+13	+10.1
Merr Ezra	316	b.o.l.	+15	+5.0
Merr Ezra	690	b.o.l.	+33	+5.0
Merr Ezra	378	b.o.l.	+18	+5.0
Merr Ezra	14884	b.o.l.	+709	+5.0
Merr Ezra	7604	b.o.l.	+362	+5.0
Merr Ezra	16233	b.o.l.	+773	+5.0
Merr Ezra	565	316	+45	+8.7
Merr Ezra	317	b.o.l.	+15	+5.0
Merr Ezra	220	434	+23	+11.7
Merr Ezra	235	367	+77	+17.1
Merr Ezra	417	746	+10	+16.8
Merr Ezra	394	41	+34	+9.4
Merr Ezra	308	4	+28	+10.0
Merr Ezra	207	25	+15	+7.8

Services

	Price	Volume	Change	%
Delik	2100	b.o.l.	+100	+5.0
Delik	780	26	+13	+10.1
Delik	316	b.o.l.	+15	+5.0
Delik	690	b.o.l.	+33	+5.0
Delik	378	b.o.l.	+18	+5.0
Delik	14884	b.o.l.	+709	+5.0
Delik	7604	b.o.l.	+362	+5.0
Delik	16233	b.o.l.	+773	+5.0
Delik	565	316	+45	+8.7
Delik	317	b.o.l.	+15	+5.0
Delik	220	434	+23	+11.7
Delik	235	367	+77	+17.1
Delik	417	746	+10	+16.8
Delik	394	41	+34	+9.4
Delik	308	4	+28	+10.0
Delik	207	25	+15	+7.8

Foreign Currency

Bank of Israel

March 20, 1984

U.S. dollar
British sterling
German mark
French franc
Dutch guilder
Swiss franc
Swedish krona
Norwegian krone
Danish krone
Finnish mark
Canadian dollar

Art Ruth
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

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Adar-II 17, 5744 • Jamadi Thani 17, 1404

Taking the plunge

EARLY elections now appear to be certain. The question — and it is a big one — is, when?

Labour had been maneuvering for months to precipitate elections. But at each stage the coalition glue held, however tenuously. Finally its decision to present an election bill to the Knesset this week goaded Tami to action.

Tami's reasons were tactical. It has for months sought a means of bringing down the government, but without alienating its own voters. Were the Labour initiative in the Knesset to fail, then another attempt to force elections would have to wait eight months, by the rules of Knesset procedure. Such a delay was too long for Tami.

This was especially true because for the small party the present is politically opportune. Its chief foe, the National Religious Party is in total disarray. Dr. Burg, the villain of the piece in Tami's view, is now all the more vulnerable because of the turmoil in the police. And Mr. Abuhatzera can easily persuade his constituents that the continuing deterioration of the economy, which harms them, can only be tackled by a new government.

Yet while Labour and Tami both see their interests served by elections no later than June, Mr. Shamir and his other coalition partners prefer delay.

The premier is still consolidating his own position. He has yet to persuade even all in his own party that he and his job are a natural fit. And both Ariel Sharon and David Levy loom as potential challengers.

It is, of course, convenient for him and other Likud spokesmen to cite the economy as justification for not having early elections at all or delaying them to the fall. But this argument would be reasonable only if the public were convinced that the government is pursuing a policy of repair which elections would threaten. Since no such policy is visible, since rampant inflation and the decline of foreign reserves are now both chronic diseases, it is not likely that the voters will see elections as disruption of a good thing in mid-course.

If, as expected, Tami's bill garners sufficient votes tomorrow in the Knesset, the coalition and especially the premier himself will have to decide whether they are going to try to frustrate the Knesset majority by delaying tactics in committee. This would be an unprecedented defiance of the majority will in the house, and no doubt in the public at large.

For the present government, resting on its slim Knesset margin and imprisoned by its dependence on the small coalition parties, simply lacks the resources that make decisive leadership possible. It wobbles from crisis to crisis, from indecision to indecision — whether on the economy or on Lebanon — and tries to cover it up by a pose of cautious decision-making.

Since these are the sorry facts, the coalition cannot assume that the public would look kindly on maneuvers to stall elections until next October or November for purposes of anticipated partisan advantage.

Yet it must also be said that the internal crisis in the Israeli polity, the deep political divisions that exist and which reflect themselves in today's Knesset line-up, will not of necessity be solved at the polls. The crisis could just as easily be perpetuated.

However, this too cannot be an argument for delaying the polls. For elections are a democracy's only resort. It is the responsibility of the parties to assure that the election campaign will, in both form and content, match the gravity of the choices the public will have to make.

Syria in the saddle

LITTLE APPEARS to have emerged from the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne — save proof of Syria's determination to make certain that internal squabbles among the various factions do not nullify its political victory in getting President Amin Jemayel to cancel last May's agreement with Israel.

It had been apparent from the start that the positions taken by the rival camps are virtually unbridgeable — certainly within the context of a conference that was scheduled to last no more than two weeks at most. And reports coming from Lausanne have confirmed that there was little significant give and take either in the plenary sessions or in the private negotiations behind the scenes.

But at the same time, there was little likelihood of the conference breaking up over the deep differences dividing the rival camps — if only because Syria's newly appointed vice president, former foreign minister Abdel-Halim Khaddam, was on hand to make certain that this did not happen.

Khaddam, officially attending the conference as an "observer," was in effect orchestrating events in a series of intensive closed sessions with the heads of the various delegations.

In particular, Khaddam was instrumental in reining in the more extravagant demands of its Lebanese proteges, especially the hot-headed Druse leader Walid Jumblatt, whose frustration clearly showed in several comments to the press. And it is, in fact, largely — if not solely — due to his efforts that the conference did not break up as soon as it started.

Khaddam's strategy appears to have been to get the conferees to agree on the barest minimum possible to keep the reconciliation process afloat after the conference ends, bypassing the deep differences separating them on most key issues.

These will be the subject of intense discussions in the weeks and months ahead, with Syria continuing to play a major behind the scenes role in hammering out a compromise — possibly with increasing ruthlessness once the talks move out of the refined atmosphere of Lausanne to the no-holds-barred atmosphere of Beirut.

For there can be little doubt, barring a major political upheaval in Damascus, that Syria will prove far more committed than either Jerusalem or Washington in imposing its political will on Lebanon.

Tami's volte-face

By SARAH HONIG

OVER A YEAR ago when Menachem Begin, then prime minister, wanted a new mandate from the nation and a more sizeable Knesset majority, he could not muster the necessary backing in the House for the early elections legislation he almost desperately desired.

In recent months, as the opinion polls indicate much brighter prospects for the Alignment, the entire 56-member opposition had been energetically labouring to secure early elections, but also to no avail. What neither of the country's political giants could achieve, the minuscule Tami did swiftly, suddenly, but not before toying with and teasing both giants.

For several months it has been apparent to all in the political arena that Tami's interests would be best served if elections were scheduled from the present legally prescribed date of November, 1985. That infused the opposition with optimism and set it working on an often frustrating courtship of Tami. It also filled the coalition with considerable trepidation, which meant giving in to a variety of Tami demands, extortionist and impudent as they might have been seen to be.

Why would Tami be interested in early elections? The reasons are complex, chiefly because Tami is a very unusual party in the Israeli political spectrum. Unlike nearly all other parties, it does not have viable large forums and institutions that reflect different and possibly rival components of the party. Decisions are not really made by the skeleton forums that do exist. As the joke goes, when the three Tami MKs chance to meet for coffee or chat on the phone, they later announce that their party secretariat has held consultations on certain issues.

Tami is not a democratic party in the typical Israeli mould. It is spared the open rifts and internecine conflicts of other parties. It is a one-man show — run by Aharon Abuhatzera.

This was glaringly apparent on Monday, when Tami performed one of the quickest about-faces in local

political history. The party secretariat's decision to adopt a wait-and-see attitude on early elections till mid-May in no way had any binding significance for Abuhatzera, as official party decisions have for other politicians.

Tami sources readily admit that Abuhatzera decided on elections — in total contradiction to the secretariat's own vote — and simply picked up the phone to notify Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan and his deputy, Ben-Zion Rubin, of the new situation. He in no way consulted with them. Monday night's bombshell was not preceded by a meeting of the troika. Abuhatzera decreed, and his two colleagues assented.

A MOVE of this sort had actually been expected for several months, ever since Abuhatzera completed the three months' sentence he was serving in a police installation. It was expected that he would create some sort of political upheaval, both as a private vendetta and in order to re-establish his political legitimacy, in order to re-enter the cabinet not as a man with a stigma but by right. The only thing that surprised observers was that the political explosion did not come any sooner. But the tinderbox was there. Abuhatzera merely took his own good time to drop the lit match.

The freedom to choose the precise moment was snatched out of his hands at the last moment by one of the cleverest Labour Party maneuvers in recent years. When Tami ostensibly refused to play along with Labour's bid to vote on early elections prior to the beginning of the Knesset recess on April 1, Labour announced that it would forge ahead with its own bill, regardless of the fact that Tami might deprive the bill of a majority. It seemed foolhardy when Labour announced that it was not daunted by the possibility that should its bill fail, another could not be submitted to a vote for six months plus two more months of Knesset recesses.

But the threat of more than eight months' delay in the ability of anyone in the Knesset to move for early elections did shake Tami. This is precisely what Labour was banking on. Leading Labour figures clearly outlined this strategy to *The Jerusalem Post* before Abuhatzera's dramatic announcement. Labour forced Tami's hand. Tami feared that Labour, with nothing to lose, would indeed punish them by foiling Abuhatzera's own early election plans. Tami had to act fast to prevent a Labour defeat in the House this Thursday. Labour, having won the war of nerves with Tami, determined the timing. But what were Tami's motives in seeking early elections to begin with?

THEORIES abound, and each perhaps contains more than a grain of truth. Together they make up a complex jig-saw puzzle. There were the intensive efforts by Tami politicians to win financial favours for their patron, Nessim Gaon. There was Abuhatzera's seething hostility towards the NRP, and especially Interior Minister Dr. Yosef Burg. There was his own political rehabilitation to consider. There were the budgetary demands Tami was pressing, which were not generously acceded to. There were the opinion polls that indicated that Tami had nothing to fear from new elections. And most of all, the country's economic ills meant that Tami could, at least theoretically, attempt to woo some of the Likud's own supporters to its own camp.

Tami hotly denied the Gaon connection, and denials also came from Gaon's Swiss office. But the Treasury has a different version. It is noted there that Abuhatzera and Uzan had tirelessly sought in recent weeks to get Israeli assistance for Gaon's enterprises. This was finally and unequivocally vetoed by the finance minister on Sunday. After that, it was feared in some Herut quarters that revenge would not be long in coming.

Tami sources say that while Gaon is their financial patron, he does not interfere in politics and they sought

Dry Bones



no favours for him at the expense of the Israeli taxpayer. They do admit that Gaon was seeking Israeli participation in a business venture he was planning with a third country — reportedly Nigeria — and that this was categorically rejected in the Finance Ministry. But the ministry is intimating that the "no" to Gaon was the immediate and direct reason for Tami's change of attitude about elections.

ABUHATZERA himself has never made any secret of the fact that he would like to avenge himself on Burg and the NRP for not stopping the police investigation against him and the subsequent trial in which he was convicted of fraud. Burg, as minister in charge of the police, could have halted the proceedings against him, Abuhatzera argues.

He never hid his gratification at the trouble in which the NRP found itself. The disarray in the NRP was exposed as never before when disclosure was made of talks with ex-Tehiya MK Hanan Porat and Matzad MK Haim Druckman. There is little chance that these talks could be quickly and successfully completed, and Abuhatzera did not want to risk an eight-month period of grace for Tami if the Labour early elections bill fails. He was obviously guided by the old axiom: What is bad for my enemies, is good for me.

Abuhatzera could have forced himself on the cabinet and returned as minister for religious affairs after completing his sentence. But Prime Minister Shamir made it clear that this would not be welcome, and Abuhatzera did not want to be persona non grata in the cabinet. He was bitter and bent on punishing all those who, he felt, were stigmatizing him. He needed new elections to return to the government with a new legitimacy and a renewed mandate from the voters. For this

reason, too, he could not afford the delay that a failure of the Labour bill would entail.

Only recently, Tami put the Likud and the entire coalition through a parliamentary cliff-hanger the likes of which even veteran politicians cannot recall. This was done in the name of budgetary and other concessions. The promises were vague, and the Treasury differed widely from Tami in interpreting the agreement between them. With the budget due to be voted on soon, one of the sides was bound to be disillusioned. If Tami strove to present itself as the champion of the poor, it had to deliver the goods and it was only a matter of time until it became apparent to all that it could not do so.

The polls continued to show that, at worst, Tami was holding its own and that it could count on increasing its strength somewhat if elections were held soon. Unlike the despised NRP, Abuhatzera and his colleagues appeared able to choose the elections option, free of danger. If they moved fast before the new finance minister could take an earnest stab at improving the economic situation, they could compete with the Likud for the same voters. Abuhatzera well remembers how his supporters greeted him during the 1981 campaign with chants of "Begin, Begin." He knows that his voters were essentially not very different from the mass of Likud supporters, and that the only reason they cast their ballots for him was because he undertook to team up with the Likud. Now he could free himself of that bondage and use the country's economic woes to campaign against the Likud and draw support away from it — and this time not on Begin's coat-tails.

The writer is The Jerusalem Post's political reporter.

READERS' LETTERS

THE DRAMA OF PETAH TIKVA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — The drama of Petah Tikva and the picture it emits of life in Israel is not very encouraging to us as olim, nor, I might add, to potential olim.

It seems to have escaped the attention of many people in Israel that this country is supposed to be a democracy and in a democracy, the will of the majority is supposed to prevail. At the present time, the opposite seems to be the case.

The overwhelming majority of Israelis, and I particularly refer to Sabras, are not only non-Orthodox, but are completely devoid of attachment to religious observances and practices. Despite this, a religious minority is able to extract benefits, out of all proportion to its numbers, partly because of the nature of the electoral system which favours the small parties, but mainly because the leaders of the two largest groups have, in their quest for office, shown themselves spineless and cowardly in their disregard of the interests of the majority whom they allegedly represent.

If this nation is a democracy, why is Sabbath observance in the form of closure of bus services, cinemas, etc., imposed on those who do not accept Orthodoxy? There may be rationality of a kind if the ban is universal, but it is not. In Tel Aviv, certain activities are permitted, but not others. In this area, a cinema has been operating for some years without doom descending on Ramat Hasharon.

This selective enforcement reeks of cant and hypocrisy. Quoting phrases like historical compromises and maintenance of the status quo are beside the point. A minority, in a democracy, has the freedom to present its view, but not to impose it

on the majority. Why is it that Jews, especially those of the Orthodox bent, who have suffered intolerance for thousands of years, are so quick to impose it on their own people? They have forgotten what Hillel told them, centuries ago — if you want tolerance, practise it.

People have the right to live as they please, provided they do not harm others. Attending a concert or a cinema on a Sabbath cannot, by any known form of logic, be construed as harming the Orthodox. Nor are the latter given some of divine right to destroy property, disturb the deceased and take the law into their own hands.

CHARLES RECHTER
Ramat Hasharon.

TEL AVIV TULIPS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — A group of citizens of Groningen in Holland organized an Association for Tel Aviv and gave our city 30,000 tulips for its 75th birthday. The flowers were planted in various parts of the city, which they embellish. They express the feelings of many Dutch people towards Israel and Tel Aviv.

This initiative deserves an expression of gratitude on the part of the citizens of Tel Aviv and Israel. I urge people to write letters of thanks to those who took this initiative and send them to the Tel Aviv Municipality, which will forward them to their addressees.

YITZHAK ARTZI,
Members of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council
Tel Aviv.

TANKS ON STAMPS

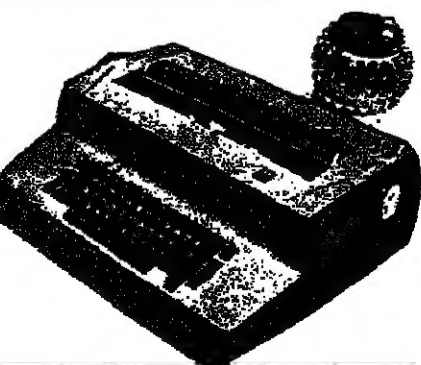
To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — Posting a letter recently to friends outside of Israel has left me in awe. Formerly, we had stamps of Israel's founding fathers, technology, art, or peace. Now I received stamps of the Merkava tank and Kfir fighter jet.

If I were on the receiving end of this letter, I would wonder why Israel puts out such stamps. I think that Israel has enough problems with negative world opinion without issuing stamps displaying Israel as a supposedly militaristic society.

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